

7th Conference
of the Parliamentary Committees for the Oversight of Intelligence and Security Services
of the European Union Member States,
Norway and Switzerland

Berlin
27 - 28 October 2011

Declaration of Berlin

Participants of the Conference of the Parliamentary Committees for the Oversight of Intelligence and Security Services of the European Union Member States, Norway and Switzerland, having met at their 7th conference, held on 27-28 October 2011 in Berlin,

Considering the importance of parliamentary oversight of intelligence and security services in order to assure the respect of the fundamental rights and constitutional principles in Europe;

Conscious that public acceptance and trust in intelligence and security activities are also dependent on effective parliamentary oversight of these services;

Noting the important role of the intelligence and security services in relation to foreign and security policy decision-making in the European Union Member States;

Conscious of the contribution made by intelligence and security activities to protecting the democratic constitutional systems in Europe from the dangers of terrorism;

Considering the outcomes of the meetings held in Rome, Bucharest, Lisbon, Tallinn, Brussels and Berlin,

Declare the following:

- 1) More than twenty years after the end of the Cold War and ten years after the attacks on New York and Washington, the intelligence and security services face diverse challenges, in particular the threats posed by international terrorism to the security of the democratic constitutional state;

- 2) In all intelligence and security activities in a democratic constitutional state, there is a corresponding parliamentary right of information and oversight. This parliamentary oversight stands alongside three other pillars: government accountability, the exercise of control by the judicial system, and oversight by the general public;
- 3) In view of the powers of intervention granted to the intelligence and security services to protect and safeguard the security of Europe's citizens, effective oversight of these services is essential to ensure their compliance with constitutional principles. Parliamentary oversight bodies must therefore be given sufficient powers and be adequately resourced, in terms of both staffing and materials;
- 4) As cooperation between the intelligence and security services is increasingly an international activity, and in view of the exchange of information that this entails, **enhancement of parliamentary oversight of the intelligence and security services in this field is necessary** in this context;
- 5) We **note the creation, initiated by Belgium, of** a European network, named the "European Network of National Intelligence Reviewers" (ENNIR), implemented through a website, with the primary goal of improving democratic oversight of the functioning of the intelligence and security services and facilitating better exchange among the networked oversight bodies. **We support the implementation of the Belgian initiative, with a view to developing the broadest possible platform for the exchange of expertise and experience on a voluntary basis;**
- 6) We recognise the continued need and the utility of intensive exchange of information between the EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland on matters relating to oversight of the intelligence and security services;
- 7) We choose (...) as the host country for the next conference.