

DECLARATION

The representatives of the Parliamentary Committees within European Union for the oversight of intelligence and security services from AUSTRIA, BELGIUM*, BULGARIA, FINLAND, GERMANY, ITALY, LITHUANIA, UNITED KINGDOM, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, reunited at Bucharest on the 17th - 19th of October, 2006,

IN THE LIGHT

of the necessity to continue the process of European cooperation in a strategic sector such as security and intelligence,

EXPRESS THEIR HOPE

that a European forum should be created in order to encourage a greater cooperation by putting together some of the intelligence products,

CONVENED ON

1) setting the parliamentary oversight activity under the following principles:

* The representatives of the Belgium delegation did not agree on all the Declaration statements.

- a) confidentiality of the proceedings, because only by avoiding any disclosure of classified information the oversight activity can be effective and trustful;
 - b) systematic and comprehensive character of oversight activity, without any exempt from scrutiny which could create risks of potential abuses, but to keep it complete and continuous instead;
 - c) distinction among the "overseer" and the "overseen" roles bearing in mind that sometimes the co-decision of Parliament and Government in the intelligence sector may cause confusion about responsibilities.
- 2) holding periodic meetings with a wide participation of EU countries in order to share national experiences and to promote the implementation of best practices in the parliamentary oversight activity with a view of guaranteeing the accountability of the intelligence activity in regard of the fundamental human rights and the democratic principles of the European identity.

- ◆ AUSTRIA - Dr. Franz Eduard KÜHNEL *Franz E. Kühnel*
- ◆ BELGIUM - Mr. Paul WILLE _____
- ◆ BULGARIA - Mr. Valentin MILTENOV *Valentin Miltenov*
- ◆ FINLAND - Mr. Matti VAISTO *Matti Vaisto*
- ◆ GERMANY - Mr. HANS de WITH *Hans de With*
- ◆ ITALY - Mr. Claudio SCAJOLA *Claudio Scajola*
- ◆ LITHUANIA - Mr. Algis KASETA *Algis Kasetas*
- ◆ PORTUGAL - Prof. Jorge Bacelar GOUVEIA *Jorge Bacelar Gouveia*
- ◆ ROMANIA - Mr. Romeo RAICU *Romeo Raicu*
- ◆ UNITED KINGDOM - Rt. Hon Paul MURPHY *Paul Murphy*

17th - 19th October 2006
 Bucharest, ROMANIA