



Committee on Civil Liberties,
Justice and Home Affairs
The Chair



Belgian House of Representatives
The President

To the Chairperson(s) of the committee(s) concerned

Honourable Chairperson,

Recent events in Paris, Brussels or Copenhagen, as well as the phenomenon of EU citizens traveling to Syria and Iraq have shown the urgent need to strengthen cooperation and exchange information between Member States' intelligence services. This reinforced cooperation should however go hand in hand with a closer cooperation between bodies responsible for the democratic oversight of such activities and the respect of the rule of law in this field. Rapid developments of new threats and the subsequent necessity to act would be an opportunity to revive the tradition of regular meetings between oversight bodies, as no such meeting has taken place since the 2011 event in Berlin.

In the course of the inquiry leading to the adoption of the Resolution of 12 March 2014 on the mass electronic surveillance of EU citizens, the European Parliament highlighted the need to further strengthen cooperation among oversight bodies. This finding was reflected in paragraph 133 of the Resolution which invited the European Parliament to support the organisation of a conference with the intelligence oversight bodies of national parliaments of the European Union.

Against this background, the Monitoring Committee responsible for monitoring the Standing Committee P and the Standing Committee I of the Belgian House of Representatives and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs would like to invite Members of national Parliaments to an inter-parliamentary meeting on "*Democratic oversight of intelligence services in the European Union.*"

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 28 May 2015, from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. and Friday, 29 May from 9 a.m. to 12.00 in the European Parliament in Brussels. A draft programme is attached.

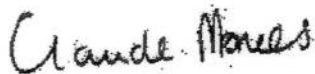
We are therefore pleased to invite up to four Members of the relevant committee(s) from each national Parliament (two from each Chamber in the case of bi-cameral Parliaments) to attend this meeting.

Should you be unable to attend, we would welcome any written contribution (libe-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu) which would be made available to our respective Members and other participants.

Practical details regarding the meeting will be forwarded in due course to your Parliament's services for relations with the European Parliament.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to accept this invitation and we are looking forward to welcoming you to the European Parliament on 28 May 2015.

Yours sincerely,



Claude MORAES



Siegfried BRACKE