



BELGIAN SENATE



6th Conference of the Parliamentary Committees for the Oversight of Intelligence and Security Services of the European Union Member States

Brussels, September 30th – October 1st 2010

Friday, October 1st 2010

Reaction of M. Danny Pieters, Chairman of the Belgian Senate, to the speech of M. Peter De Smet, Board member of the Belgian Standing Committee I

Thank you, M. De Smet, for your illuminating presentation of the blueprint of what in the near future could become an European Intelligence Review Agencies Knowledge Centre.

From this moment on, we all have an idea what this Knowledge Centre could look like, what the aim and purpose ought to be, but also which pitfalls potentially could arise.

Personally, I'm very convinced that this initiative can put closer and more permanent contacts between the different parliamentary review committees into practice. But my opinion is just one of the opinions of the 27 Member States and delegations of Norway and Switzerland.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we cannot discuss the technical matters of this initiative. Therefore, we need a rather select working group composed by different delegation members to handle the preparation.

On the contrary, what we do need, is your general view on the idea launched by the Belgian delegation. Indeed, as M. De Smet already said, the ball is in your court.

I think it is far most useful to have a kind of round-table now and ask all delegations present today to give a first reaction. Can you support the idea? Do you think it is feasible? Do you have any other remarks?

That will give us the occasion to adopt, if necessary, the Declaration of Brussels.
