



AS/BUR (2006) 16

**Communication du Président
de l'Assemblée parlementaire
du Conseil de l'Europe,
M. René van der Linden,**

au Bureau de l'Assemblée parlementaire

**Communication of the President
Of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
Mr René van der Linden,**

to the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly

Strasbourg, 23 janvier/January 2006

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III. COMMUNIQUES DE PRESSE / PRESS RELEASES

13/01/2006

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II. CORRESPONDANCE

a. Lettres envoyées à / letters sent to:

1. Mr Ogtay S. Asadov, Chairman of the Milli Mejlis, Azerbaijan

Strasbourg, 12 January 2006

Dear Chairman,

Thank you for your reply of 29 December 2005. Your letter was submitted to the Bureau during its meeting in Paris on 9 January 2006, for consideration when discussing the issue of the November Parliamentary elections in your country.

I should like to take this opportunity to inform you that in the context of this discussion, Mr Gross, the Assembly's co-rapporteur for monitoring of Azerbaijan, informed the Bureau that, in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, members of the delegation that carried-out the post-election visit in Azerbaijan last December were in favour of challenging the credentials of the delegation of Azerbaijan on substantial grounds during the Assembly's forthcoming January part-session.

According to the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, if such a challenge is made by at least ten members from at least five national delegations, it is referred to the appropriate committee, for report, and to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities, for opinion. The principal committee must report within twenty four hours, if possible. The report is then debated in the Assembly as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

René van der Linden

Mr Ogtay S. Asadov
Chairman of the Milli Mejlis
Parliamentary Ave. 1
AZ – 1152 Baku
Azerbaijan
Fax: +99412 493 49 43

2. Mr C. Svoboda, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Strasbourg, 16 January 2006

Dear Minister, Dear Cyril,

Thank you very much for your letter of 15 December 2005. In this connection, and further to our informal contacts, I have pleasure in confirming my proposal to hold a conference on Belarus in Prague. Following the contacts between our secretariats, I understand that, at this preliminary stage, your Ministry agrees to organise this conference jointly with our Assembly on 22-23 February 2006, and I thank you very much for this quick and positive reaction.

In my opinion, the conference would concentrate on ways of providing assistance to democratic developments in Belarus. In this connection, the following topics could be discussed: the current situation, including the issue of the forthcoming presidential elections, the state of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law as well as the European perspectives for this country.

I would suggest that, together with members of our Assembly and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs from the countries of the region (the Baltic States, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Ukraine), participants would include the Chairman in Office of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers (currently the Foreign Minister of Romania), representatives of the European Parliament and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr Severin, UN rapporteur on human rights in Belarus and member of our Assembly, and representatives of the opposition and civil society in Belarus. I suggest that we also discuss a possible invitation to Belarus authorities.

It is foreseen that, following an urgent procedure debate, the Parliamentary Assembly adopts a resolution on "situation in Belarus on the eve of the presidential elections" during its forthcoming part-session, on Thursday 26 January. I very much hope that this resolution will give a formal support to this Conference so that we could announce it officially. In this connection, I am also glad to inform you that Mr Milinkievich has accepted my invitation to take part in this debate.

May I suggest that, in the meantime, we informally explore through our respective channels the availability of the proposed participants. In this respect, direct contacts between your ministry and the ministries of foreign affairs of the countries concerned would be very useful.

I would very much appreciate your Ministry's comments on these preliminary proposals so that we could finalise the guidelines for this conference as soon as possible.

Besides the contacts, which your collaborators have already established with Mr Petr Sich, Head of my Private Office, I am fully at your disposal to discuss this matter with you directly over the phone.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and look forward to meeting you in Prague.

With my best wishes for 2006.

Yours sincerely,

René van der Linden

Mr Cyril SVOBODA
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
Fax: + 420 2 24 18 20 77

Cc: Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the Council of Europe

3. Belarus opposition parties

Strasbourg, 17 January 2006

Dear Sirs,

Thank you very much for your letter, which I received on 5 January 2006, asking me to request an opinion of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (“the Venice Commission”) on the legality (or illegality) of the participation of Mr Lukashenko as a candidate for the forthcoming presidential election in your country.

As you know, the Venice Commission has already prepared an opinion on the referendum on 17 October 2004 in Belarus and expressed a series of concerns and criticisms regarding this referendum. This opinion remains valid and, from the point of view of the Venice Commission, there is nothing substantial to add at the present stage.

However, I am persuaded that a political evaluation of this election is needed. To this end, the Assembly has scheduled, on Thursday 26 January 2006, an urgent debate on “situation in Belarus on the eve of the forthcoming presidential election”, to which I have invited Mr Milinkievich.

I am, therefore, of the opinion that, at this stage, it is preferable to concentrate on this Assembly debate next week and, if necessary, come back to your request at the light of its outcome.

Yours sincerely,

René van der Linden

Mr. A. Lebedko
Chairman of the United Civil party

Mr V Vecherko
Chairman of the BFP Party

Mr Kaljakin
First Secretary of the Central Committee of PKB

4. Mr Samad Seyidov, Chairman of the delegation of Azerbaijan to PACE

Strasbourg, 18 January 2006

Dear Chairman,

Thank you for your letter of 9 December 2005 and for the information concerning the November parliamentary elections.

May I take this opportunity of informing you that the Bureau of the Assembly has twice discussed this issue, at its meetings of 12 December 2005 and 9 January 2006.

At the former meeting, the Bureau *inter alia* heard a report on the post-electoral visit and agreed that a further visit should be conducted and that an observation mission should be sent to the partial re-run of the elections. Following this meeting, I wrote to President Aliyev and to Mr Asadov, Speaker of the Milli Mejlis. Please find herewith copies of these letters.

On 9 January, the Bureau returned to the issue. I must inform you that on this occasion, Mr Gross, Co-rapporteur for the Monitoring Committee, informed the Bureau that the members of the delegation that carried out the second post-election visit, in December, were in favour of challenging the credentials of the delegation of Azerbaijan to the Parliamentary Assembly. I have already informed the Speaker of the Milli Mejlis about this development: please find herewith a copy of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

René van der Linden

Mr Samad Seyidov
Chairman of the delegation of Azerbaijan to PACE
Milli Mejlis - Parliamentary Ave. 1
AZ 1152 Baku

Fax: 00 99412 493 49 43

Enclosures: Copies of President's letters to President Aliyev and Speaker Asadov

5. Mr José Manuel BARROSO, President of the European Commission

Strasbourg, 18 January 2006

Dear President,

Thank you for your letter of 28 November 2005 concerning the proposals for an EU Agency for Fundamental Rights.

I was pleased to read that the Commission fully agrees that the Agency should be excluded from having any competence for general human rights monitoring outside the scope of Community law. I also note your reference to provisions intended to ensure cooperation and coordination between the Agency and the Council of Europe.

I must inform you, however, that I remain concerned at the way in which the mandate of the Agency is currently described. The draft regulation does not effectively preclude the Agency engaging in activities that would duplicate those of the Council of Europe. Indeed, on one of the most important points, a role with respect to non-EU Member States is expressly foreseen in the proposal.

Finally, I would like once again to express my appreciation of your acceptance of our invitation to address the forthcoming Assembly part-session. I know that your schedule for the morning of Tuesday 24 January is extremely tight, but I am endeavouring to ensure that time can be found for us to meet in person.

Yours sincerely,

René van der Linden

Mr José Manuel BARROSO
President of the European Commission
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B – 1049 Brussels

6. Mr Josep Borrell Fontelles, President of the European Parliament

Strasbourg, 18 January 2006

Dear President, Dear Josep,

May I begin by expressing my very best wishes to you for 2006. I look forward to building on the contacts we developed last year.

Thank you for your letter of 19 December, containing the minutes of our joint meeting of 20 October 2005. In relation to the final point in the minutes, I would suggest that the proposals for an EU Agency for Fundamental Rights might themselves be an issue on which the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly could cooperate. This would give greater effect to our common position that the Agency should be active in relation to EU legislation and not duplicate Council of Europe activities.

I was pleased to learn of your willingness to participate in a forthcoming part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly. May I take this opportunity, therefore, of formally inviting you to participate in our spring part-session, which is scheduled to take place between 10-13 April 2006. As you suggest, our respective offices can make arrangements for a suitable time.

Yours sincerely,

René van der Linden

Mr Josep Borrell Fontelles
President of the European Parliament
Rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels
Belgium
Fax: +32 (2) 284 11 26

**7. Mr Mihai - Răzvan Ungureanu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania,
Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe**

Strasbourg, 19 January 2006

Dear Minister,

On 24 November 2005, I wrote to you about the necessity to ensure that the process of preparing a “memorandum of understanding” on relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union by the UK Presidency of the European Union does not prejudice the outcome of the report to be prepared by Mr Junker, Prime Minister of Luxembourg.

Since then, I have been informed by Mr Douglas Alexander, UK Minister for Europe, that the UK Foreign Office has produced an “initial draft EU text” of this memorandum and has agreed to pass it to the Romanian Chair-in-Office of the Committee of Ministers.

This matter was discussed in the Bureau of the Assembly on 9 January 2006 and the Bureau agreed that I should ask you to transmit to the Assembly this draft memorandum.

In the meantime, I have also been informed that the text was sent on 5 January 2006 by the Chairman of the Ministers’ Deputies to all Council of Europe member states for comments.

I would, therefore, ask you to formally transmit this text to the Assembly in order to ensure the necessary coordination between the two statutory organs of the Council of Europe on this highly important question.

I also take this opportunity to inform you that Mr Juncker will come to the Assembly’s Standing Committee meeting on 17 March 2006 in Paris for an exchange of views on this issue.

I look forward to meeting you in Strasbourg next week.

Yours sincerely,

René van der Linden

Mr Mihai - Răzvan Ungureanu
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania,
Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

cc. Permanent Representative of Romania to the Council of Europe,
Chairman of the Ministers’ Deputies

b. Lettres reçues de / letters received from:

1. Mr Ogtay S. Asadov, Chairman of the Milli Mejlis, Azerbaijan, 13/01/2006, Reg. nr. 1180
2. Amb. A. Mehdiyev, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the CoE, 16/01/2006, Reg nr. 1202
3. Mr Ogtay S. Asadov, Chairman of the Milli Mejlis, Azerbaijan, 17/01/2006, Reg. nr. 1203
4. Mr J. M. Barroso, President of the European Commission, 19/01/2006, Reg. nr. 1226

1. Letter from Mr Ogtay S. Asadov, Chairman of the Milli Mejlis, Azerbaijan, 13/01/2006, Reg. nr 1180

13-JAN-2006 21:42 FROM:

TO: 0033328412795

P. 003

un-official translation

Mr. Rene van der LINDEN

**President of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe**

1611/06
1180

Dear Mr. President,

On the 6th of November 2005 parliamentary elections were held in Republic of Azerbaijan. These elections marked a number of innovations for the first time in the 15 year-independence history of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Approximately 2000 candidates campaigned in 125 single-mandate constituencies. These elections, observed by nearly 1500 international and 17.000 local observers demonstrated the resolute will towards building democracy in Azerbaijan.

Making changes to the Election Code based on the propositions and suggestions of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and the OSCE/ODIHR, the two important orders issued by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E Mr. Ilham Aliyev on "Improvement of election practice", and on "Urgent measures to be taken on elections conducts" aimed at improving the election process provided real opportunity for holding free, fair and transparent elections in Azerbaijan.

Propositions of influential international organizations, including the recommendations of the PACE Pre-election Mission concerning the parliamentary elections were accepted by us. Thus, with a view of preventing multiple voting, there were taken steps such as inking voters' fingers, conducting independent exit-polls, putting preliminary turns of the elections on the CEC web page during 24 hours, lifting restrictions on observing the elections by the local NGOs. The results of exit-poll conducted by the US PA Consulting invited by the Government of Azerbaijan coincided in 85% with the final results determined by the Central Election Commission.

The strict position of the leadership of the country concerning the election irregularities resulted in dismissal of heads of executive powers of three districts as they directly interfered into the election process. Voting results in 423 polling stations were announced null and void, and the results of elections in 10 constituencies were nullified or not confirmed. On the 13th of May 2006 rerun elections will be held in these constituencies. All the persons found guilty in the election irregularities were called to account for.

However, in spite of all these taken steps, according to our information, during the January 2006 Part-session of the Assembly some members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe want to raise an issue of imposing sanctions on the delegation of our country to the PACE.

Dear Mr. President, in this regard, I would like to kindly request You to take the necessary measures for rendering appropriate support to the delegation of Azerbaijan to the PACE.

Availing myself of this opportunity, dear Mr. President, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration to You.

Sincerely,

Ogtay S. ASADOV

2. Letter from Amb. A. Mehdiyev, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the CoE, 16/01/2006, Reg nr 1202



Strasbourg
«16» January 2006
No CE-04/06

*Azərbaycan Respublikasının
Avropa Şurası yanında
Daimi Nümayəndəsi*

*Représentant Permanent
de la République d'Azerbaïdjan
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe*

17.11.06
1202

Dear President,

I have the honour to enclose herewith the information on the measures undertaken by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan with a view to eliminating the results of the shortcomings and violations occurred during the Parliamentary elections, held in Azerbaijan on November 6, 2005.

Please accept Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Sincerely yours,

Agshin MEHDİYEV
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

H.E. Mr. René Van DER LINDEN
President of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
Strasbourg

Enclosure

Information on the measures undertaken by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan with a view to eliminating the results of the shortcomings and violations occurred during the Parliamentary elections, held in Azerbaijan on November 6, 2005

In accordance with the provisions of the Presidential Executive Orders "On improvement of the electoral practice in the Republic of Azerbaijan" and "On immediate measures in connection with preparation for and conducting of the elections to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan", appropriate measures have been undertaken by the authorities with a view to creating the necessary conditions for free and democratic elections so that to secure the possibility for the citizens to vote in favour of the candidate of their preference.

Nevertheless, some shortcomings and irregularities have taken place during the Parliamentary elections. Immediately after the elections, the Azerbaijani authorities started to investigate these cases and have taken urgent measures in order to eliminate their negative results and to punish the persons found responsible for such kind of deeds.

Taking into consideration the violations occurred during the election day, the Central Election Commission invalidated the results of the elections in 4 out of 125 constituencies. After having considered the results of the elections, the Constitutional Court concluded that the protocols of 6 out of these 121 constituencies were not in line with the relevant provisions of the Electoral Code and the results of elections should be invalidated in these constituencies. Therefore, rerun elections will be held in 10 constituencies on May 13, 2006. At present, necessary works are being carried out in order to secure that rerun elections are held in full compliance with the democratic standards.

When it comes to the action taken with regard to the officials found responsible for the election-related violations, It should be pointed out that the high-ranking officials of executive authorities of the regions were seriously punished for the violations that they committed in breach with the requirements of the relevant Presidential Executive Orders. Due to this reason, heads of Executive Powers of Surakhani, Sabirabad and Zakatala regions were dismissed from their posts by the Executive Orders signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Furthermore, different kind of election-related complaints have been investigated in depth by the relevant bodies.

By virtue of the Order "On additional measures on examination of the information supposed to contain a criminal feature, received by the General Prosecutor's Office from the relevant election commissions regarding the elections to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan" signed by the General Prosecutor on November 2, 2005, 18 task forces composed of 59 persons were established and sent to the regions of the country on 5 November 2005. In close interaction with the Central Election Commission, these task forces have carried out works aimed at quick examination of the information supposed to contain a criminal feature, received from the constituency election commissions regarding the violations of the citizens' rights in the election day and bringing before justice of those who committed criminal acts.

The situation on state of examination of the complaints with regard to the violations of electoral legislation is as follows:

Up to now, prosecutorial agencies have received 351 complaints on the violations of the electoral legislation (43 complaints before the election day, 39 complaints during the election day and 269 complaints after the election day). 99 out of them were lodged by the Central Election Commission, 34 by the constituency election commissions, 4 by the electoral blocs, 31 by the law-enforcement agencies and 183 by the citizens.

The complaints can be classified by their nature as follows:

- 31 complaints – direct illegal interference by the high ranking officials of local executive authorities and election commission into the pre-election campaign;
- 6 complaints – illegal pressure on the candidate with a view to forcing him to withdraw his/her candidature;
- 13 complaints – dissemination by the candidates of false information that prejudicing the honour and dignity of other candidates and other steps undermining the pre-election campaign;
- 32 complaints – Impediment created by the candidates to electors to exercise their electoral rights by suborning, enticing, intimidating, using the force or threatening with the use of force;
- 40 complaints – Interference with the work of the election commissions and electoral process;
- 81 complaints – Falsification of election documents;
- 75 complaints – Offences in the election day;
- 6 complaints – Interference with the elections by police;
- 67 complaints – Other reasons.

The above-mentioned complaints were investigated and 18 criminal actions were instituted (6 – subornation of the electors, 3 – falsification of election documents, 3 – hooliganism, 1 – use of physical force against the representative of the authorities, 2 – interference with and pressure on the work of election commissions, 3 – abuse of official power).

The Prosecutor General agreed to bring the candidates to criminal responsibility in 3 cases and to administrative responsibility in 1 case. In 105 cases, it was rejected to institute a criminal action, due to the absence of criminal act or criminal feature in the deed. In 40 cases, the requirements of the legislation were explained to the complainants. 5 complaints were not considered because of their anonymous origin. 179 complaints were sent to the relevant election commissions and law-enforcement agencies.

A criminal action in 1 case was ended due to the change in the situation in question. In 12 criminal actions, primary investigations were completed and accusation acts were sent to the courts. Up to now, the courts have considered two cases and passed sentences on both of them. The Courts are now considering the remaining 10 cases. The investigation is still underway with regard to 5 criminal cases.

3. Letter from Mr Ogtay S. Asadov, Chairman of the Milli Mejlis, Azerbaijan, 17/01/2006, Reg. nr 1203

17 JAN 2006 16:35 FROM:

TO: 0033388412796

P.003

Unofficial translation

Dear President,

Further to my letter of 29 December 2005 and your letter of 12 January 2006, as well my letter of 13 January 2006, I am writing to you with regard to future prospects of the cooperation between the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

First of all I would like to reiterate that Azerbaijan has always been attaching great importance to its membership in the Council of Europe. Indeed, this approach has proven its usefulness up to now, allowing the Azerbaijani side to inform the other members about the problems that it faces and to gain experience that is necessary for their solution, thus serving as a factor considerably contributing to the continuous democratic reforms in the country.

We also appreciate that, during this period the Council of Europe and especially its Parliamentary Assembly have paid due attention to the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan between its two member-states which still affects negatively the peace and stability in our continent. The important documents adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly on the matter constitute a bright token of the will of the distinguished Organisation to contribute to the just resolution of this conflict based on the norms and principles of international law.

Azerbaijan always highly appreciates the cooperation with all the institutes of the Council of Europe, which helps to further promote democratic development in the country, including the rule-of-law and human rights protection.

From your letter of 12 January I learned that there are some parliamentarians who, with a view to the Parliamentary elections held in Azerbaijan last November, are intending to challenge the credentials of the Azerbaijani Delegation. These elections did not meet a number of international standards, as the country has experienced transitional difficulties. Serious measures were taken to address the shortcomings. As you are aware, the elections will be re-run in 10 districts on May 13, 2006. We will do our utmost for holding these elections in full compliance with the democratic standards and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will also be invited to observe them.

It is for that reason, Dear Colleague, that I kindly ask for your support in this matter, as the President of the Parliamentary Assembly. It is my firm belief that we should address the issues together and analyze the further consequences of the decisions to be taken.

We should also recognize that the Parliamentary Delegation of Azerbaijan has played a significant part in strengthening our cooperation. Furthermore, the members of our Delegation have been deeply engaged in the work carried out by the Assembly. Under these circumstances, it would be unfair to deprive Azerbaijan of the main tool for its cooperation with the Assembly and deprive also the Parliamentary Delegation of what it considers to be its home. Therefore, I hope such a position will meet with understanding of the Parliamentarians and the credentials of their Azerbaijani colleagues will be approved during the January part-session.

As a Chairman of the newly elected Milli Majlis, I am ready to pay a visit to Strasbourg after this problem is resolved through our joint efforts during the January part-session, with a view to building contacts with my colleagues in the Parliamentary Assembly and the Council of Europe. I am confident that this visit will provide a good opportunity to discuss the existing difficulties and our future cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Ogtay ASADOV
Chairman of the Milli Majlis

H.E. Mr. René Van DER LINDEN
President of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
Strasbourg

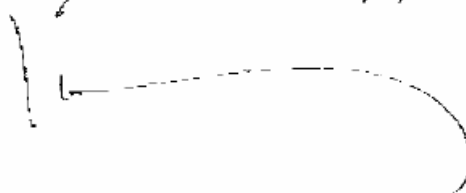
4. Letter from Mr J. M. Barroso, President of the European Commission, 19/01/2006,
Reg. Nr 1226

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

Brussels, 19th January 2006

Mr. President, Dear René,

Further to our telephone conversation on Wednesday, I am writing to inform you that I must unfortunately postpone my address to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which was scheduled for the 24th of January 2006. My schedule of events for that day has simply become unsustainable with travel requirements and would have made my visit to the Assembly unsatisfactorily short. I look forward to being able to dedicate more time so that a proper exchange of views is possible with the Assembly and I, therefore, welcome your invitation for my address to be rescheduled for the April part-session on the 11th of April 2006 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. I also accept your kind invitation to lunch after my address. Please do convey to the members of the Assembly my sincere regrets for any inconvenience this short notice of postponement may cause but assure them of my commitment to engaging in the important dialogue between the European Commission and the Assembly on matters of mutual concern.

Yours sincerely,


Mr. René van der Linden
President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France

III. COMMUNIQUES DE PRESSE / PRESS RELEASES

Allégations de détentions par la CIA : le Président salue la mise en place d'une commission d'enquête par le PE

Strasbourg, 13.01.2006 - René van der Linden, Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe (APCE), s'est félicité aujourd'hui de la proposition du Parlement européen (PE) de mettre sur pied une commission temporaire pour enquêter sur les allégations de détention secrète de prisonniers par la CIA en Europe.

« Je suis heureux de noter le soutien du Parlement européen aux activités de Dick Marty et sa volonté de rester en liaison et de collaborer le plus étroitement possible avec notre enquête », a déclaré M. van der Linden, ajoutant que M. Marty partageait son avis. « D'ailleurs, les membres du Parlement européen ont déjà assisté deux fois à des réunions de notre Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme. En outre, nous les inviterons à participer au débat que l'Assemblée tiendra plus tard dans le mois de janvier. Le fait que le Parlement européen ajoute ses efforts aux nôtres souligne l'importance politique de cette enquête et la nécessité d'une action commune ».

« Je tiens à répéter qu'il est de l'intérêt de tous – y compris des gouvernements d'Europe et des Etats-Unis d'Amérique – de coopérer à la recherche de la vérité dans cette affaire afin d'empêcher que de telles violations du droit international se produisent à l'avenir » a poursuivi M. van der Linden.

L'Assemblée a commencé d'enquêter sur ce sujet le 7 novembre dernier, tout de suite après les premières allégations. Depuis, sa Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme a examiné cette question à trois reprises. A l'issue de ces réunions, des demandes de coopération ont été transmises aux parlements nationaux des 46 Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe, au gouvernement des Etats-Unis d'Amérique (Etat observateur auprès du Conseil de l'Europe), à Eurocontrol (responsable de la gestion du trafic aérien européen) et au Centre de satellites de l'UE, ainsi qu'à M. Javier Solana, Secrétaire Général de l'UE.

L'Assemblée examinera cette question le 24 janvier au cours de sa [session plénière](#) à Strasbourg. Ce travail complètera les demandes présentées par le Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe aux gouvernements des Etats membres.

Alleged CIA detentions: PACE President welcomes European Parliament investigation

Strasbourg, 13.01.2006 - René van der Linden, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, today welcomed the proposal that the European Parliament create a temporary committee to investigate the allegations of secret CIA detentions in Europe.

"I am pleased to note the European Parliament's support for Mr Marty's activities and their wish to liaise and co-operate as closely as possible with our enquiry," said Mr van der Linden, adding that Mr Marty shared this view. "Indeed, members of the European Parliament have already twice attended meetings of our Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights. In addition, we will be inviting them to participate in the Assembly's debate later this month. The fact that the European Parliament will be adding its efforts to those of our Assembly underlines the political importance of the enquiry and the necessity for common action."

"I would like to repeat that it is in everyone's interest – including that of national governments in Europe and the USA – to co-operate in discovering the truth of this affair, in order to prevent such violations of the international rule of law occurring in future," continued Mr van der Linden.

The Assembly began its enquiry on 7 November last year, in the immediate aftermath of the original allegations. Since then, its Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights has discussed the issue on three occasions. Following these meetings, requests for co-operation have been made to the national parliaments of all 46 Council of Europe member states, the US government (an Observer State of the Council of Europe), Eurocontrol (responsible for European air traffic management) and the EU Satellite Centre, along with Javier Solana, Secretary General of the Council of the EU.

[The Assembly will be debating the issue on 24 January](#), during its plenary session in Strasbourg. This work complements the requests made by the Council of Europe's Secretary General to the governments of member states.