*Committee on Defense, Public
Order and National Security*

January 12ᵗʰ, 2006

Dear Mr. President,

I am honoured to inform you that following a series of articles in the press regarding the so-called CIA detention centres in various countries, including Romania, a Committee of Inquiry, led by myself, in my capacity as a Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Defense, Public Order and National Security, was set up by a decision of the Senate of Romania in December 2005, in order to investigate these allegations.

The Committee is composed of representatives of all Political Groups in the Senate of Romania.

I would like to assure you of our commitment to deal with this issue in full transparency. In the same spirit of transparency, knowing the interest of the European Parliament on the subject and its intention to set up a Temporary Committee to investigate the allegations, I would like to express our interest in establishing a close co-operation between the Inquiry Committee in the Senate of Romania and the European Parliament.

We would be very grateful if the European Parliament could put at our disposal any documents or conclusions coming up from its activity on this subject. On our side, we want to reconfirm to you our readiness to put at your disposal the results of our inquiries. We are also ready to arrange for anyone interested from the European Parliament to visit Romania in connection with this issue.

We would like to assure you that as parliamentarians we are highly interested in checking especially on aspects concerning the respect for human rights, a subject which we consider of utmost importance for our country.

Wishing you the very best for 2006, please accept, Dear Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Senator Norica NICOLAI

Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on
Defense, Public Order and
National Security

H. E. Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles
President of the European Parliament