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ALDE welcomes draft report on CIA alleged flights and secret prisons in the EU

Sarah LUDFORD (Lib Dem, UK), 1st Vice-President of the CIA committee, welcomed the draft report tabled by the rapporteur of the Temporary Committee on alleged flights and secret prisons on EU territory. *"The report correctly states that, on the basis of the elements examined so far, fundamental human rights have been repeatedly and inadmissibly violated, including the use of torture. The CIA is also responsible for the abduction and illegal detention of alleged terrorists on EU soil. In stating that it is highly unlikely that Member States were unaware of these extraordinary renditions taking place on their soil, this report rightly underlines the grave collusion of EU governments. They have either passively turned a blind eye, or actively collaborated with CIA".*

According to Sarah Ludford, it was necessary for Member States - as well as for the US authorities and other States involved - to prove from the very start that they were not involved in the alleged cases of renditions. *"However, the attitude of governments appears to be ruled by a secret "pact of silence" to deny any knowledge or involvement of the authorities in the rendition cases",* she explained.

"There is mounting evidence coming to light such as the Italian, Swedish and German cases, the statements made by Czech Interior Minister affirming that the CIA had requested he host a secret prison in his country, the recent sacking of CIA analyst Mary McCarthy as well as elements collected by journalists, lawyers, national ombudsman, UN bodies, NGOs and the Council of Europe", she said. *"The committee must continue its investigation and complete the task it has begun".*

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