

FORM FOR TABLING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

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To the: **COUNCIL**
COMMISSION

ORAL QUESTIONS	WRITTEN QUESTIONS
Oral Question with debate (Rule 108) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Question Time (Rule 109) <input type="checkbox"/>	Written Question (Rule 110) <input type="checkbox"/> Priority Written Question (Rule 110 (4)) <input type="checkbox"/>

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SUBJECT:
 (please specify) New developments on CIA extraordinary renditions programme and secret prisons on EU soil

TEXT:

On 18 November media revealed that a secret prison operated in Lithuania¹ from 2004 to 2005 where torture was used to interrogate suspected al-Qaeda terrorists. The Lithuanian Parliament opened a third investigation, after the President called for an enquiry. Lithuania allegedly agreed to prison after former President Bush pledged to support Lithuania's entry into NATO. EP and Council of Europe reports also had highlighted the fact that a secret NATO agreement of 4 October 2001 could have been used by the US authorities to cover up CIA activities on European soil.

In Poland, after a parliamentary enquiry denied the presence of secret prisons on Polish soil, prosecutors have opened an enquiry about the presence of a prison near a former military air base².

Last 4 November, an Italian Court convicted 23 US agents in absentia and 2 Italian intelligence officials of kidnapping Abu Omar in Milan and flying him to Egypt, where he was tortured. Successive governments opposed State secret on parts of the evidence³. One of the convicted CIA agents admitted to media that they "broke the law" and that decisions were taken in Washington, while the US administration declared that they were "disappointed" by the Italian Court judgment⁴.

In the UK, the government repeatedly opposed to the release of evidence demonstrating the UK intelligence services interrogated and knew about the inhuman and degrading treatment and torture of UK resident Binyam Mohamed by CIA agents, on grounds of harming UK-US intelligence relations. The High Court dismissed on 19 November - for the 6th time - the government requests⁵. Media also revealed that last October a US Gulfstream jet linked to CIA was met by two SAS helicopters in a secret operation at Birmingham International Airport⁶.

What does the Council intend to do to ensure that truth and justice are brought in relation to fundamental rights' violations that took place on EU soil and to ensure these do not happen anymore? Does the Council agree that the implication of Europe in these violations of international law and human rights conventions, and the failure to provide clarification and accountability, severely undermines Europe's moral authority in its external policies? Can the Council provide a detailed account of what it has done so far in terms of clarification of the allegations? Is the Council aware of the NATO agreement of 4 October 2001 and what will they do to ensure that the EU does not give up democracy and fundamental rights in the fight against terrorism and in the cooperation with third States and notably the US? Will the the Council raise these issues with Member States and the US?

Signature(s): _____ **Date:** _____

1 <http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/cia-secret-prison-found/story?id=9115978>;
http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2009/11/20/lithuanian_officials_open_new_inquiry_into_secret_cia_prisons
 2 <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iNvDcuqgrilgGGpnADjUyTJB18w>
 3 <http://www.statewatch.org/rendition/rendition.html>
 4 <http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/exclusive-convicted-cia-spy-broke-law/story?id=8995107>
 5 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/nov/19/court-rejects-miliband-cia-request>
 6 <http://www.statewatch.org/rendition/rendition.html>