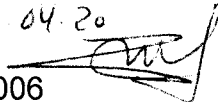


*Colice a tous les experts de
la Commission TDJP pour
l'information*
2006 04.20


Brussels, 28th March 2006
N° 2.0/21/2006

Dear Mr Chairman,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 22 February 2006 and congratulate you on your appointment to the Chair of the Temporary Committee on CIA Activities in Europe.

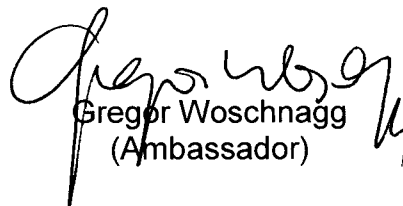
Austria has from the start clearly indicated its position in discussions on CIA activities in Europe: even in the fight against terrorism, the rules of international humanitarian law and human-rights rules must be respected. This applies particularly to the ban on torture, which constitutes a human-rights obligation from which there cannot in any circumstances be derogation.

Austria has accordingly been cooperating closely on this with the Council of Europe and given detailed replies both to the questions from the General Secretariat of the Council of Europe pursuant to Article 52 of the ECHR and to those from MP Mr Marty. In this connection, reference has in addition been made inter alia to the parliamentary scrutiny of the intelligence services pursuant to Article 52a of the Austrian Federal Constitution.

Austria is of course prepared also to provide the Committee which you are chairing with detailed information and looks forward to suggestions for cooperation.

I shall forward your letter to the Austrian Parliament so that it is informed of your offer of cooperation.

Yours faithfully,


Gregor Woschnagg
(Ambassador)

Mr Carlos COELHO
Member of the European Parliament
Committee Chairman
Rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels