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EP PRESS ALERT

Reactions of Chairman Carlos Coelho to Council of Europe draft report on CIA activities in Europe

Reacting to the adoption of a draft report by the Legal Affairs Committee of the Council of Europe today, where Senator Dick Marty reveals "*a global spider's web*" of CIA detentions in Europe and listens up to seven Council of Europe member states who could be held responsible for cooperation in various degrees, the chairman of the European Parliament Committee investigating alleged CIA activities in Europe, Mr. Carlos Coelho (EPP-ED, PT) said: "*I am not surprised by the conclusions of the report. I had already said publicly that not all the flights crossing Europe were illegal, but I would like to stress something: it seems clear to me that the existence CIA activities in Europe have been corroborated and proven*".

"*I agree with senator Marty regarding the need to throw more light on the possible involvement of Member States. I came back from the United States with the feeling, which I have publicly expressed already, that this involvement may have been bigger than we initially thought*", Mr. Coelho added.

Regarding the paragraphs of Mr. Marty report alluding at "*corroborated facts*" which strengthen the presumption of detention centres based in Poland and Romania, the committee chairman concluded that "*this in fact will be the priority of our committee for the next semester. We cannot permit any strategy coming from Member States to disguise the truth. I have repeatedly asked their governments and national parliaments to cooperate with us. The moment of truth has arrived*".

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