

Claudio Fava MEP  
Carlos Coelho MEP  
Political Group Advisers

LIBE Committee, European Parliament

Brussels, 7 February 2008  
Our ref: B744

Dear Mr. Fava, Mr. Coelho and other members of the working group

**Subject: Follow-up of the European Parliament resolution on the alleged use of European countries by CIA for the transportation and illegal detention of prisoners**

Ahead of the LIBE working group meeting on Monday 11 February to discuss the process and content of the follow-up to the European Parliament's inquiry on European involvement in the CIA rendition and secret detention programme, Amnesty International wishes to reiterate its call for substantial and urgent follow-up of the European Parliament's work.

A year after the adoption of the European Parliament's resolution on the alleged use of European countries by CIA for the transportation and illegal detention of prisoners, the failure of the European Parliament to follow-up the implementation of its recommendations - despite the clear mandate given to LIBE to do so, seriously affects its credibility.

Just last week, a new report published by the organisation Reprieve, and a Danish TV documentary have once again exposed the role played by European countries in the illegal transfers of detainees to Guantanamo and other illegal places of detention. Yet, governments continue to deny their responsibility, and downplay the evidence brought forward and the need for independent, public and thorough investigations. The same governments acting as the Council of the European Union -or the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe have still not agreed to condemn the US-led programme of rendition and secret detention, or to announce action aimed at preventing future human rights abuse. The European Commission has similarly adopted a very low profile on the issue.

As stated a few days ago by Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights on the subject of European counter-terrorism measures: "A head-in-the-sand attitude cannot be defended. These issues must be fully addressed, and the time is now" .

Amnesty International therefore calls on the working group to make a clear commitment to follow-up the work of the TDIP Committee and fully monitor all the issues raised in its report, namely:

- disclosure of the full truth about European cooperation with the illegal rendition and secret detention programme,
- reparation to victims, and
- adoption of preventive measures.

The TDIP committee referred to Article 6 of the Treaty of the European Union as its founding legal and political basis. It is now up to the LIBE, as mandated in the European Parliament's resolution, to determine whether ongoing inaction by the EU and European governments is compatible with the principles and values of the European Union on the basis of Article 6 and 7 TEU.

Given the urgency and the gravity of the issues, Amnesty International hopes that the European parliament will intensively engage in this work, irrespective of national interests, party lines or election deadlines. Amnesty International stands ready to offer any cooperation and support in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



Natalia Alonso  
Acting Director  
Amnesty International-EU Office