

Press Release

Parliamentary Assembly Communication Unit

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Inquiry into alleged secret detentions in Council of Europe member states: press arrangements

Strasbourg, 19.01.2006 – Dick Marty (Switzerland, ALDE), who is investigating allegations of secret detentions in Council of Europe member states, is due to make his interim assessment in an information memorandum to be presented to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) on Tuesday 24 January 2006 in Strasbourg.

The committee will also hold an exchange of views on this topic, and on suspected abductions on European soil, and alleged illegal transport of detainees from or through Europe to countries where the persons are at risk of torture, with the following:

- Craig Murray, former United Kingdom Ambassador to Uzbekistan
- Professor Manfred Nowak, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture
- John Sifton, Human Rights Watch, New York

Representatives of the European Parliament and the European Commission are also expected to attend.

The meeting will be followed by a current affairs debate on this subject by the plenary Parliamentary Assembly (1).

The debate will be broadcast live over the internet at <http://assembly.coe.int> and <http://www.coe.int>.

[Background information on Council of Europe action to date](#)
[Guide to the plenary session \(PDF\)](#)

(1) Subject to the decision of the Assembly when it adopts its final order of business at around 3 p.m. on Monday 23 January

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 315 members from the national parliaments of the 46 member states.

President: René van der Linden (Netherlands, EPP/CD); Secretary General of the Assembly: Bruno Haller.

Political Groups: SOC (Socialist Group); EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe); EDG (European Democratic Group); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).

TIMETABLE

All events take place in the Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg, unless otherwise stated. All times are local.

Tuesday 24 January	
8.30 a.m.-10 a.m. Room 10	The Assembly's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights holds an exchange of views with Craig Murray, Manfred Nowak and John Sifton (not open to the press , however camera crews will be able to film for the first few minutes of the meeting).
9 a.m.	Mr Marty's information memorandum is expected to be made public. It will be posted on the Assembly's website, http://assembly.coe.int .
10 a.m.- 11.30 a.m. Debating chamber	The Parliamentary Assembly holds a current affairs debate on "Alleged secret detention in Council of Europe member states", which will be opened by Mr Marty. No draft text is presented for a current affairs debate, and no vote is taken. The debate will be broadcast live over the internet, and a live satellite feed will be available (see technical information below).
12.15 p.m.-1.30 p.m. Room 1 with transmission in room 3	Mr Marty will give a press conference which will be broadcast live over the internet and a live satellite feed will be available (see technical information below). Other press conferences on this topic may be announced later, also to be broadcast live.

CONTACTS

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Accreditation - advance accreditation is advised

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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Access to the Palais de l'Europe

Journalists should come to the main entrance of the Palais de l'Europe, which opens at 7 a.m. On presentation of a valid press card, they will be issued with a press badge.

The Press Centre is located in Room 4 on the second floor of the Palais de l'Europe. Additional working space will be temporarily available for journalists in a neighbouring room (Room 5), on Tuesday 24 January.

Internet

The plenary debate and the following press conference with Mr Marty will be available in real time on the Parliamentary Assembly's website, assembly.coe.int, and the Council of Europe web portal, www.coe.int. Later, a link to the video record of the press conference will also be available.

Radio

Real time audio of both the debate and the press conference can be recorded either from the Internet feed or in Strasbourg. Radio journalists attending the press conference (Rooms 1 and 3) should make sure they have a 3.5 mm mono jack. For the press centre (Rooms 4 and 5) they will need a 6.35 mm mono jack.

Photo

High-resolution photos of both the parliamentary debate and the press conference can be downloaded from the multimedia page of the Council of Europe's web portal, <http://www.coe.int/t/e/multimedia/defaultEN.asp>. Main photo agencies will also be covering the event.

Television

Live feed

The debate and the press conference will be covered live by a multi-camera direction, and transmitted on the Telecom 2D satellite (TC2D @ 7.91° West XP 09 C14 freq DL: 11589.3 pol Y S/R 6.1113 FEC 3/4). Camera crews on the spot in Strasbourg can take the live feed from the Audiovisual Service. The press conference will almost certainly be taken live by the EBU and ENEX.

Copies

A limited number of BETA SP copies of the debate and the press conference will be available from the Audiovisual Service of the Council of Europe (+33 (0)3 88 41 35 00), but priority will be given to production companies helping a number of different TV stations, rather than individual channels (see next section below).

Production companies

The Council of Europe has limited technical resources available to help television journalists, but these will be particularly scarce on Tuesday 24 January. We therefore recommend TV journalists to contact one of the companies below to book shooting, editing and transmission facilities:

Films de l'Europe, 18 Allée Spach (right next to Council of Europe)

Shooting and editing

Tel. +33 (0)3 88 24 08 78 - fde@films-europe.com

Boulevard de Productions, 2 chemin Goeb (corner of Quai Jacoutot, 3 minutes drive from Council of Europe)

Shooting, editing and transmission.

Tel. +33 (0)3 88 45 84 84 (office)

Tel. +33 (0)6 11 64 72 68 (hotline)

Tel. +33 (0)3 88 45 84 82 (playout co-ordination)

Tel. +33 (0)3 88 31 09 79 (IFB number)

info@boulevard.fr

Via Storia (will bring transmission/editing vehicle to Council of Europe)

Shooting, editing, transmission, stand-up point

Tel. + 33 (0)3 88 19 16 16 (office)

Tel. + 33 (0)6 85 56 43 29 (hotline – Steve Hachenberg) - shachenberg@viastoria.com

France 3 Alsace – Place Bordeaux, 67000 Strasbourg (5 minutes drive from Council)

Transmission only

Tel. + 33 (0)3 88 56 67 03 (Gérard Alarcon)

Tel. + 33 (0)3 88 56 68 03 (Robert Benoit)