

Brussels, 4 May 2018

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence,

On May 9th your Committee will hold a hearing to consider the nomination of Ms Gina Haspel as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Given the close transatlantic cooperation in the field of security and law enforcement, including several arrangements for sharing personal data, it is essential that all parties are fully committed to the same principles and values. Respect for human rights, the rule of law and international law are the pillars of our joint efforts against crime and terrorism. These policies cannot be exempt from the principle of accountability, and there can be no impunity for violations of international law and human rights.

In this respect we would like to express our concern over certain aspects of the curriculum of Ms Haspel. We are particularly alarmed to note Ms Haspel's reported role overseeing a CIA "black site" prison in Thailand, and complicity in efforts to destroy the evidence showing detainees being subjected to brutal "enhanced interrogation techniques".

The European Parliament has repeatedly and strongly condemned the CIA's secret detention and extraordinary rendition programme, which resulted in multiple human rights violations, including the use of torture and other inhumane or degrading treatment, abduction, secret detention, detention without trial, and violations of the non-refoulement principle. The CIA programme has furthermore given rise to numerous court cases and parliamentary inquiries. The complicity of Ms Haspel in the CIA programme is clearly problematic for transatlantic cooperation. It cannot even be excluded that certain parties in Europe will press criminal charges against Ms Haspel in one or more EU countries.

It is clear that the nomination of Ms Haspel would harm mutual trust between the US and the EU and hamper transatlantic cooperation. That would be a serious obstacle to our joint security and law enforcement efforts.

We therefore urge you to take these concerns into consideration during the confirmation hearing of Ms Haspel.

Yours sincerely,

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Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
Vice-Chair of the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

Guy Verhofstadt (ALDE)
Chair of the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

Marietje Schaake (ALDE)
Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with the United States

Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE)
Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Roberta Metsola (EPP)
Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Carlos Coelho (EPP)
Substitute Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Claude Moraes (S&D)
Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Birgit Sippel (S&D)
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Ana Gomes (S&D)
Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Eva Joly (Greens/EFA)
Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Cornelia Ernst (GUE/NGL)
Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs