



## Charter of the Intelligence Oversight Working Group

### 1. Members of the European Intelligence Oversight Group

This Charter establishes the Intelligence Oversight Working Group, an informal cooperation between the following oversight bodies:

- Belgian Standing Intelligence Agencies Review Committee, *Comité permanent de contrôle des services de renseignement et de sécurité /Vast Comité van Toezicht op de inlichtingen- en veiligheidsdiensten* (Belgium);
- Danish Intelligence Oversight Board, *Tilsynet med Efterretningstjenesterne* (Denmark);
- Review Committee on the Intelligence and Security Services, *Commissie van Toezicht op de Inlichtingen- en Veiligheidsdiensten* (The Netherlands);
- EOS Committee – The Norwegian Parliamentary Intelligence Oversight Committee, *EOS-utvalget* (Norway);
- Independent Oversight Authority for Intelligence Activities (OA-IA), *Unabhängige Aufsichtsbehörde über die nachrichtendienstlichen Tätigkeiten AB-ND* (Switzerland);
- Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office, (United Kingdom).

### 2. Purposes of the Intelligence Oversight Working Group

The Intelligence Oversight Working Group aims to:

- strengthen cooperation between the participating oversight bodies;
- increase transparency between oversight bodies within the limits and according to the standards set by national legislators, in order to support effective oversight of international cooperation between intelligence and security services;
- exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices of oversight;
- provide a platform for developing new and/or more effective oversight methods;
- maintain contact, share information and provide each other with mutual assistance as appropriate, in accordance with the boundaries set by national laws and regulations.

### 3. Meetings

#### a) Chair meetings

The Intelligence Oversight Working Group shall annually hold at least one meeting between the chairs of the oversight bodies, or a member of the oversight body representing the chair. In principle, each chair will be supported by their head of secretariat and/or another senior staff member.



**b) Staff meetings**

The Intelligence Oversight Working Group shall regularly, when appropriate, hold staff meetings. The staff meetings are aimed at practically substantiating the purposes referred to in Section 2 of this Charter and carrying out the cooperation projects referred to in Section 4 of this Charter.

**c) Preparation of meetings**

Chair meetings shall be prepared by the oversight body hosting the meeting in cooperation with the informal secretariat referred to in Section 5 of this Charter. Staff meetings shall be prepared by the oversight body hosting the meeting. All Members voluntarily contribute to hosting meetings on a rotation basis.

**4. Cooperation projects**

The Intelligence Oversight Working Group may decide to enter into cooperation projects. Cooperation projects relate to a specific interest of the Group. The decision to enter into a cooperation project will be taken during a Chair meeting on the basis of a project proposal. Project proposals are prepared at staff level and shall include at a minimum:

- the intended goals for the project;
- the proposed methods to reach those goals;
- the timeframe in which the project is to be carried out.

**5. Informal secretariat**

The informal secretariat will be responsible for:

- reporting conclusions of the chair meetings;
- reporting conclusions of the staff meetings in cooperation with the oversight body that organised the respective meeting;
- monitoring progress on the cooperation projects;
- communication with regard to outside interest in the Group.

The secretariat will rotate every two years.

**6. Information exchange**

The participating oversight bodies commit to facilitating information sharing within the Group to further the purposes referred to in Section 2 of this Charter, where appropriate and in accordance with the boundaries set by national laws and regulations. The nature and extent of information sharing within the Group may also be defined by or dependent upon bilateral and/or multilateral agreements between the intelligence and security services overseen by the participating oversight bodies.

**7. Membership**

Extending membership of the Intelligence Oversight Working Group to other European oversight bodies on their request, shall take place on the basis of a decision by consensus taken during a Chair meeting.

**8. Status, Implementation and Amendment of the Charter**

This Charter reflects the intent of the participating oversight bodies within the Intelligence Oversight Working Group. Each participating oversight body commits to implementing this Charter. Amendment of this Charter shall take place on the basis of a decision by consensus taken during a Chair meeting. This Charter is not legally binding.

Signed in The Hague on 12 December 2019,



Mr. Serge Lipszyc, Chair of the Belgian Standing Intelligence Agencies Review Committee



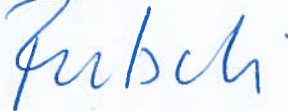
Mr. Michael Kistrup, Chair of the Danish Intelligence Oversight Board



Mr. Nico van Eijk, Chair of the Dutch Review Committee on the Intelligence and Security Services



Mr. Svein Grønnern, Chair of the EOS Committee – The Norwegian Parliamentary Intelligence Oversight Committee



Mr. Thomas Fritschi, Director of the Swiss Independent Oversight Authority for Intelligence Activities



Sir Brian Leveson, Investigatory Powers Commissioner, United Kingdom