



Parliamentary questions

3 September 2013

E-008808/2013

Answer given by High-Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

The EU INTCEN (EU Intelligence and Analysis Centre) is the successor of the EU Situation Centre (EU SITCEN), which is mentioned in Article 4, paragraph 3, sub (a), third indent of the Council Decision of 26 July 2010 (Decision establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service). The aforementioned reference to the EU SITCEN serves as legal basis for EU INTCEN, which has taken over the intelligence and analytical tasks of EU SITCEN.

It should furthermore be recalled that in answers to previous questions⁽¹⁾ the HR/VP has provided the EP a full overview of the structure and activities of EU INTCEN. Providing detailed information regarding the subject-matter of its reports would however undermine the confidentiality of the reports drawn up by EU INTCEN. Analytical reports of EU INTCEN classified, restricted, confidential or secret can in this respect not be compared with Council documents that are not classified but only marked LIMITE (thus not to be disclosed to the public).

The powers and competencies of EU INTCEN (as well as of its predecessor EU SITCEN) have been spelled out in detail in various answers to the EP, both by the Council (to which EU SITCEN belonged until 1.1.2011) as well as by the HR/VP. A sample of the answers is listed above.

Finally, it should be stressed that, as indicated in the previous answers to the European Parliament, EU INTCEN is under full operational control of the HR/VP and that all EU rules regarding data protection, access to documents and security of information apply in full to EU INTCEN. Bearing in mind that EU INTCEN is not handling personal data and only producing strategic analysis, further parliamentary supervision is not foreseen.

(1) E-009092/2012, E-009091/2012, E-006027/2012, E-006022/2012, E-006020/2012, E-006019/2012, E-006018/2012, E-006017/2012.

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