

**Fra:** Menninga H. [mailto:hester.menninga@eerstekamer.nl]

**Sendt:** 17. november 2005 15:15

**Til:** Menninga H.

**Emne:**

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the committee on European Cooperation Organisations of the Dutch Senate we would like to ask you to forward/distribute the enclosed press release to the committee on European Affairs of your parliament. We would look forward to receiving reactions from your parliament,

Kind regards,

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## Dutch Senate opposes establishment of a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

In deliberations with the Dutch Government about the European proposal to extend the mandate of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) to become a Human Rights Agency, the Dutch Senate has not been convinced of the necessity of this proposal and therefore sent a very clear message to the government to prevent the establishment of the Human Rights Agency. The Agency as proposed will unnecessarily double the activities of existing institutions and organisations, specifically the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the European Court of Human Rights. The Agency will also make an undesired distinction between the EU 25 and the other 21 European countries.

At the end of the meeting on Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup> the political parties of the Senate concluded that there is a very big risk that the whistle will be blown on the ministers if they continue the negotiations. The ministers asked the Senate for some negotiating space but since the ministers were very reluctant to make specific promises to the members of the Senate, the Senate did not change his point of view.