



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 14 September 2009

13252/09

LIMITE

PE-QE 537

PUBLIC

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION
E-4209/09 put by Martin Ehrenhauser (NI) and Hans-Peter Martin (NI)**

from : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Permanent Representations of the Member States
Subject : **"Provision of information to the Situation Centre"**

1. Delegations will find attached:
 - the text of the above Written Question;
 - a preliminary draft reply prepared by the General Secretariat.

2. If no comments have been received from delegations **by 17.00 on 1 October 2009**, this preliminary draft reply will be submitted to the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) and to the Council for approval.

Any comments received will be examined by the Working Party on General Affairs.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4209/09

by Martin Ehrenhauser (NI) and Hans-Peter Martin (NI)
to the Council

Subject: Provision of information to the Situation Centre

The Joint Situation Centre (SITCEN) has become the EU's hub for information with relevance to the EU's or its Member States' security policy. SITCEN gathers both military and civil intelligence which it analyses and transforms into products and services which it provides to a variety of agencies.

1. Which intelligence agencies inside and outside the European Union provide information to SITCEN and in what timeframe?
2. Which public organisations and institutions provide information to SITCEN and in what timeframe?
3. Which private businesses provide information to SITCEN and in what timeframe?
4. Does the SITCEN receive, directly or indirectly, information from the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM)? If so, how frequently?
5. Does the quality of information received from national intelligence agencies meet SITCEN's needs and requirements? How could the information be improved?

REPLY

to Written Question E-4209/09

put by Martin Ehrenhauser (NI) and Hans-Peter Martin (NI)

The SITCEN relies principally on confidential information provided by Member States. It is not the practice of the Council to comment on the quality of the interchange between parts of the Secretariat and the Member States, either in this field or in others.

The SITCEN also receives information from a wide range of other sources, including EU institutions, international organisations, public bodies and commercial providers. As its duties include assessing the risks to EU crisis management missions, it naturally receives information from those missions.
