

22 December 2005

CIA flights at Portuguese airports

According to information published by the *Diário de Notícias*, Portuguese airports were used by 34 flights chartered by the CIA to transport suspected Islamist terrorists between June 2002 and July 2004, during which time José Manuel Durão Barroso was Prime Minister of Portugal.

Even though the newspaper does not name its sources, it asserts that at least one of these planes travelled from the Azores to the North American base at Guantánamo, Cuba. Others flew from or to Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Algeria and Morocco. The flights were not inspected because they were declared as commercial transit flights. The charter contracts were divided almost equally between two North American companies, Richmor Aviation, which is reported to have been working for the CIA since 1967, and Jeppesen Dataplan, one of whose aircraft – which bears the registration number N313P and which made repeated landings in Portugal – is being investigated in other European countries in connection with the same alleged violation of international law. Most of the flights are said to have landed in Oporto, although the busier airports at Lisbon and Faro were also used.

Can the Commission President confirm these reports?

Will the Commission President provide explanations to the European Parliament?

Answer

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2005-4855&language=EN>