The President of the Council of the Federation Mr. Sergey M. Mironov Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 26 MOSCOW Russia

date 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010 ref 145933.u/RvdL/PvO/eos

Excellency/Dear Mr. Mironov,

Horrified en highly indignant about their faint-hearted character, the Senate of the States General of the Netherlands has learnt the sad news of the brute assaults in the metro of Moscow yesterday. On behalf of the Senate I express my deepest sympathy with the victims and their families. Our thought are with them as well as with the Russian people.

We strongly condemn this heartless attack on the rule of law and this disrespect for human life and dignity. In an open society brute force can never take the place of arguments or be a means to solve conflicts or differences of opinion.

We truly wish you all the strength to overcome this sad tragedy and we wish you good luck in maintaining the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Yours sincerely,

P. René H.M. van der Linden President of the Senate of the Netherlands