



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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“I/A” ITEM NOTE

from: Presidency
to: COREPER/Council

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Subject: Draft Council Conclusions calling for an update of the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism

1. Following the discussion at the Council in March on the revision of the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism, the Presidency proposed the above-mentioned draft Council conclusions.
2. The draft Council conclusions have been discussed at the TWP meeting on 24 April and at the CATS meeting on 8 May.
3. Coreper is requested to invite the Council to agree on the conclusions as set out in Annex.

The Council of the European Union,

Concerned that terrorism continues to be a serious threat to international peace and security including in particular the security of the European Union, its Member States and the lives of its citizens and its residents, both inside and outside the Union;

Recognising that the responsibility of combating radicalisation and terrorist recruitment lies primarily with the Member States, but that EU efforts in this field can provide an important framework to share good practices;

Acknowledging the need to develop a strategy to address radicalisation in all of its forms.

Recognising also that measures to counter radicalisation and recruitment need to take account of the diversity of modern society and modern communications, which mean that messages delivered in one country may have a wider resonance within circles, diasporas and/or communities in other countries;

Recalling that the EU Counter Terrorism Strategy contains a strategic commitment to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism by tackling the factors or root causes which can lead to radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism, in Europe and internationally;

Recalling also the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism;

Convinced that there is a general consensus amongst Member States that an update of the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism by the Council is timely and appropriate so as to ensure that it continues to meet its intended purpose.

Acknowledging that since the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism was devised, the trends, means and patterns of radicalisation have evolved and broadened. For instance, the phenomena of lone actors and foreign fighters present new types of risks, while the Internet and social media present a new potential for mobilisation and communication. In addition there is increasing understanding, from case studies and research conducted, of the factors which allegedly motivate certain individuals to unjustifiably embrace radical or extremist ideologies / views leading to terrorism and the Member States have continued to develop approaches to address radicalisation issues specific to their individual circumstances.

Noting the many terrorist threat assessments and analyses provided by the EEAS and its relevant services, in particular IntCen, and the Counter Terrorism Coordinator since the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism was devised;

Considering developments aimed at making further progress in the area of preventing and combating radicalisation and recruitment as well as violent extremism, including;

- the numerous initiatives and efforts of individual Member States to exchange views approaches and best practices on countering radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism in a bilateral, multilateral and EU framework, based on their domestic and international experience;
- the recommendations of the Radicalisation Awareness Network established by the EU Commission;
- the results of the EU Workshop on Effective Programming for Countering Violent Extremism organised by the Commission and the EEAS held in Brussels on 26-27 November 2012;
- the discussions at the Commission's High Level Conference on Empowering Local Actors to Counter Violent Extremism held in Brussels on 29 January 2013, with the active participation of the Ministers and High level Representatives of the Member States.

Taking account of

- the concerns of the Member States in relation to the many forms of terrorism and the diversity of extremist beliefs and ideologies underpinning them;

- the importance of strategies to promote social cohesion and integration in their own rights separately from counter-radicalisation initiatives;
- the impact of external factors, including crisis response, on the internal security of the EU and its Member States;
- the necessity to further develop effective actions at national and local level to prevent and counter radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism,
- the importance of effective efforts to counter extremist and terrorist ideologies;
- more recent developments including the roles of public communications, the Internet and Social Media;
- the value of complementary and/or alternative and cross-sectional approaches, in addition to efforts made by law enforcement agencies;
- the need to involve victims of terrorism in the counter-narrative strategies.

Invites the Commission to present a Communication outlining concrete measures on ways to counter radicalisation and violent extremism based on proven methods and scientific and scholarly studies as well as the experiences from the Radicalisation Awareness Network and other relevant institutions and networks.

This Communication or elements thereof may be fed into the activities of the Council to further develop the strategy to address radicalisation in all of its forms. It may also provide policy elements to support Member States in their efforts to address the issue of preventing radicalisation and recruitment leading to violent extremism and terrorism by fostering the exchange of good practices and the funding of relevant projects proposed by the Member States.

Invites the Commission to propose, in its Communication, themes and measures within the broad spectrum of counter-radicalisation efforts, suggested priorities being inter alia foreign fighters, lone actors and Internet/social media.

Concludes that it will, in close consultation with the Counter Terrorism Coordinator, the EU Commission and the High Representative, update the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism in order to meet current, emerging or future trends in the context of preventing people from being drawn into terrorism.