

7873/04

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of : Meeting of the JHA Counsellors

on : 26 March 2004

Subject : Co-ordination of EU Member States and Acceding States to prepare the meeting of CODEXTER (29 March - 1 April 2004)

The vast majority of delegations were sceptical as to a comprehensive convention against terrorism of the Council of Europe. Recalling the declaration adopted by the European Council on 25 March 2004, which emphasises the key role of the UN, they preferred to focus, at present, on the UN work in this field in order to avoid duplications of efforts. Several delegations doubted that a Council of Europe convention would add value to existing legal instruments. One delegation supported the elaboration of a comprehensive Council of Europe convention against terrorism. Council of Europe work in general relating to terrorism was supported.

After the discussions, the Presidency concluded that delegations in general could agree to the following general approach in the discussions in the Council of Europe:

- Support should be given to the ongoing work of the Council of Europe in matters of terrorism and in particular of CODEXTER.
- In the light of the declaration of the European Council on combating terrorism priority should be given to the UN efforts to elaborate a convention against terrorism.
- Taking account of the ongoing UN efforts it is, at present, not appropriate to start negotiating a comprehensive convention against terrorism in the Council of Europe.
- In the light of progress within the UN, the issue of elaboration of a comprehensive convention of the Council of Europe should be revisited within 12 months.
- In that context, the added value of a convention of the Council of Europe could be examined as well as whether there are gaps that need to be filled in the existing frameworks for cooperation.