



**COUNCIL OF
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Subject: Conclusions of the Kick-off conference "Check the Web"
- Berlin, 26-27 September 2006

Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



ANNEX

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 16 October 2006

**13930/06
EXT 2 (10.11.2008)**

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NOTE

from : German Delegation
to : Working Party on Terrorism

Subject : Conclusions of the Kick-off conference "Check the Web" - Berlin, 26-27
September 2006

1. Terrorists use the internet to strengthen support for radicalism and recruit potential terrorists; they also use it as a communication platform and to distribute instructions for committing crimes, for example by publishing bomb-making instructions.
2. The EU Member States are already engaged in various efforts to monitor and analyse terrorist Internet activities. However, the plethora of sites and the ephemeral nature of their content is a major challenge requiring extensive resources of Member States.
3. Joint action at European level would contribute to a more effective use of resources. To date, efforts to monitor individual terrorists and terrorist organizations using the Internet for their activities have been taken without clear coordination and without sharing of resources at EU level. Therefore, on 15/16 June 2006 the European Council asked the Council and the Commission to develop measures for fighting terrorist use of the internet.

4. For the first time, experts from EU Member States, the Council Secretariat, the Commission, the Council Situation Centre and Europol met at the kick-off conference “Check the Web” to share their views and experience. This is the first step towards closer cooperation at European level in this field. Unfortunately, due to a prior engagement the CTG was not able to attend this meeting and sent their apologies; however, we would welcome their input at future meetings.

5. With the “Check the Web” project we wish to establish a new form of analysing Internet content based on sharing information between all Member States. An information portal which will be accessible by all Member States will be established at Europol and will be expanded successively; inputs are provided voluntarily by Member States’ competent authorities:
 - To make cooperation possible, as a first step all participants will appoint national contact points.
 - Secondly, a link list of internet pages provided by different countries will where possible be published in the information portal and made available to all participants.
 - The various Member States have different language and technical capacities. The information portal offers the possibility to inform the other partners about special expertise available in a particular country or authority.
 - In addition, a list of publications by terrorist organizations will be made available in the original version through the portal, including, where available, information regarding translations and technical analyses, allowing all participants to access such information without delay.
 - Finally, it is intended to publish analysis results and make them available for all participants.

6. The conference provided a framework for setting up an expert network which is the basis for further experience-sharing. In their presentations, some participants delivered insights into their work at national level:

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These presentations are the basis for fruitful information-sharing between experts.

7. At the same time it became clear that effective action against terrorist use of the Internet requires enhanced cooperation between Member States. Member States' activities should therefore be accompanied and complemented by appropriate EU measures.

8. Hence, the participants of the conference welcome the German initiative “Check the Web” and agree that it should serve as a basis for future cooperation of Member States in monitoring and analysing open source material on the internet.
9. Europol expressly supports the project and reported that a service for the coordination of contact details is already available at Europol and can be used as an interim measure ahead of the portal being developed. Regular progress reports will be presented to the Council working group on terrorism.
10. The exchange of expert experience, initiated by the conference, in the framework of the “Check the Web” project was welcomed. Expert meetings of the various actors responsible for monitoring and analysing the internet will continue on a regular basis.

In annex delegations find further information on the "Check the Web" project.

**Explanations on the figure on co-ordinated Internet assessment on Islamist terrorism –
“Check the Web”**

I. Preliminary remark:

- Participation in the “Check the Web“ project is voluntary
- Exchange of information from sources accessible to the public
- Selection of national priorities for internet assessment is left to the Member States
- Aim: Co-ordinated Internet assessment between Member States under division-of-labour principles

II. What is planned?

1. Setting up an “Internet Information Portal“ for MS at Europol

- Contents of the information portal: 1. Current points of contact, 2. Link lists/ Web sites, 3. Additional information: Languages, special expertise, legal and technical modalities, 4. List of announcements by terrorist organisations, and 5. Evaluation results
- Each Member State transmits necessary information to Europol on the basis of the Europol Convention

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3. Setting up an expert group on the pooling of resources

- Linking the various players on various issues
- Forming a network of contact points

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III. What is not intended?

- Intelligence services will not be obliged to transmit information to Europol
- Member States will not be obliged to monitor, interrupt or shut down specific Internet sites or to change their monitoring activities regarding the Internet.

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