



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 14 November 2008 (19.11)
(OR. fr)**

15684/08

**JAI 638
ENFOPOL 228**

NOTE

from : Coreper

to: Council

No. prev. doc.: 15178/08 JAI 599 ENFOPOL 210
15243/08 JAI 601 ENFOPOL 217

Subject : Draft Council conclusions on the continuation of work on combating terrorism

1. Delegations will find attached a Presidency proposal for draft Council conclusions on the continuation of work on combating terrorism. Coreper agreed to these conclusions at its meeting on 12 November 2008.
2. The Council is asked to confirm that agreement and adopt the annexed text.

**DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON THE CONTINUATION OF WORK ON
COMBATING TERRORISM**

THE COUNCIL,

RECALLING that terrorism is a threat to all States and to all peoples, and poses a serious threat to the security of the European Union and the lives of its citizens;

HAVING REGARD TO the need to protect the Union and its citizens from the high, continuous and permanent threat of terrorism;

CONSIDERING that non-conventional threats must also be taken into account when combating terrorism;

RECALLING the requirements of solidarity, information-sharing and pooling to achieve that purpose;

BUILDING ON the work already carried out within the Council bodies in this area; in particular the Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Action Plan adopted in 2005;

HAVING REGARD TO the fact that all measures initiated in order to implement the Strategy and the Action Plan must fully respect basic citizens' rights;

HAVING REGARD TO the proposals put forward by the European Counter-Terrorism Coordinator in his report to the Council / European Council on 7 November 2008;

EMPHASISING the importance of security research with a view to the development of new technologies and the need for close involvement of those responsible for internal security in setting priorities for such research;

MINDFUL OF the need to increase synergy between the various Council bodies dealing with the terrorist threat both inside and outside the European Union;

EMPHASISING the pragmatic and concrete approach which has been adopted in recent work in this area;

HAVING REGARD TO the need to use effective early detection tools in order to prevent the commission of terrorist acts;

HAVING REGARD TO the need to ensure citizens' safety by reducing the risk of explosives being misappropriated and used for terrorist purposes;

AWARE that, in combating terrorism, Member States must counter the process of violent radicalisation;

CONVINCED that, in order to curb the radicalisation process, Member States must, *inter alia* through the training of field staff, focus their efforts on the following areas: the prevention of terrorism, of incitement to terrorism, of use of the Internet for terrorist purposes – training and recruitment – and monitoring premises likely to be used for radicalisation;

AND

BEARING IN MIND that the European Union's Strategy and Action Plan to counter radicalisation and recruitment constitute the basis for specific action in that connection;

HAVING REGARD TO the fact that the relevant legal instruments must be ratified, transposed into legislation and implemented as a matter of priority,

INVITES MEMBER STATES to:

- (1) pursue ongoing work in the field of radicalisation and implement the European Union's Action Plan to counter radicalisation and recruitment;
- (2) continue to combat the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, and in particular to participate in the European "Check the Web" project, *inter alia* on subjects such as "Islamist propaganda from moderate Islamist websites";
- (3) take part in the efforts being made by the European Coordinator and the five Member States which have agreed to pilot specific anti-radicalisation projects;
- (4) encourage the professional groups concerned to make use of the handbook entitled "Violent radicalisation: recognition of and responses to the phenomenon by the professional groups concerned";
- (5) consider the need for the early detection of individuals suspected of terrorist activities or organised crime during the visa application procedure;
- (6) continue to implement the European action plan on enhancing the security of explosives;
- (7) speed up national procedures for ratification, transposition and implementation of legal instruments which are considered a priority in order to improve legislation on preventing and combating terrorism;
- (8) keep Europol and Eurojust supplied with information on investigations and proceedings concerning terrorism in accordance with the arrangements laid down in Decision 2005/671/JHA, inform both those agencies of the constitution of joint terrorism investigation teams and involve them with these in ways to be determined according to the individual case.

INVITES THE COMMISSION to

continue to play its part in implementing the counter-terrorist strategy, in particular by:

- (1) encouraging Member States' initiatives in all areas of combating terrorism, in order to facilitate the exchange of best practices, particularly with regard to radicalisation factors which lead to terrorism;
- (2) continuing work and support for new research;
- (3) continuing work on the financing of terrorism, especially on charitable foundations, on the basis of the strategy for combating the financing of terrorism which was updated in July 2008;
- (4) developing its package of CBRN measures, adoption of which is scheduled to be during 2009.

INVITES EUROPOL to:

- (1) deploy the early warning system in the event of thefts or disappearances of explosives and detonators;
- (2) continue to implement the existing European explosives database. One section will be dedicated to conventional explosives, while the other will focus more specifically on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) substances;
- (3) continue and speed up the implementation of the network of civilian mine clearance units – EEODN;
- (4) to continue the work being carried out in connection with the "Check the Web" project. In this connection, Europol is asked to report to the Council at the end of April 2009 on how to increase dissemination of personal data in order to make the best use of its secure information portal.