



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on de-radicalisation and disengagement from terrorist activities

*3162nd JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS Council meeting
Luxembourg, 26 and 27 April 2012*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING that terrorism represents a threat for every single State and all its individuals and communities;

UNDERLINING the importance of countering violent radicalisation within the European Union by putting in place measures to combat radicalisation at EU level and outside the EU through dialogue with and assistance to third countries;

RECOGNISING that the responsibility for countering terrorism and preventing violent radicalisation lies with individual Member States, while the EU can contribute to the creation of a complementary framework for exchanging knowledge, experience and best practices;

ACKNOWLEDGING the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy¹, which sets out the EU's objectives of preventing recruitment to terrorism and countering radicalisation, both in Europe and elsewhere, as well as the EU Action Plan on Radicalisation and Recruitment² which lists a number of actions against radicalisation to be taken by the Member States and the EU;

BEARING IN MIND that the Stockholm Programme³ calls upon the Commission, the Council and Member States to improve initiatives to counter radicalisation in all vulnerable populations as well as, together with the civil society, to enhance their efforts and cooperate even more closely, especially at local level, in order to understand all the factors underlying the phenomenon and to promote strategies that encourage people to give up terrorism;

¹ 14469/4/05 REV 4

² 15244/08 EU RESTRICTED

³ OJ C 115, 4.5.2010, p. 1.

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CONSCIOUS that the Stockholm Programme furthermore calls upon Member States to identify best practices and specific operational tools to be shared among them;

UNDERLINING that the Commission's communication of July 2010 on the main achievements and future challenges in the EU counter-terrorism policy⁴ stresses that it will be necessary to identify more accurately the most effective ways to counter violent radicalisation and recruitment of terrorists;

RECALLING the important general steps taken so far in countering violent radicalisation, and the number of initiatives undertaken by the Member States and the different experience and knowledge gained that made it possible to identify different approaches which are useful and effective in preventing radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Radicalisation Awareness Network connects actors involved in countering violent radicalisation across the EU with the purpose of identifying best practices and promoting the exchange of information and experiences in different fields of radicalisation;

BEARING IN MIND the handbook entitled “Violent radicalisation: recognition of and responses to the phenomenon by professional groups concerned”, the Council Conclusions of December 2010 on the role of the police and civil society in combating violent radicalisation and recruitment of terrorists⁵ and the Council conclusions of June 2011 on enhancing the links between internal and external aspects of terrorism;

UNDERLINING the importance of cooperation between national, regional and local authorities and non-governmental organisations when encouraging individuals to give up terrorism and the value of the combined efforts in counter-terrorism, prevention of violent extremism and radicalisation, cohesion and inclusion in order to obtain a cohesive strategy;

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES:

- to take steps to further strengthen cross-sectoral co-operation among public authorities at the national, regional and local level in order to promote strategies or efforts dissuading radicalised individuals from violence and encouraging them to abandon terrorist activities;
- to intensify co-operation between public authorities and private actors in order to increase awareness of individuals within radicalised groups, who have been either convicted of terrorism or are being influenced by radicals;
- to develop methods aimed at helping individuals exit radicalised groups and thereby dissuading them from using violence and embracing ideologies justifying violence;

⁴ 12653/10

⁵ 16178/10

- to launch, where appropriate, targeted interventions, such as dialogue and direct contact, that are effective in helping individuals disengage from radicalised groups;
- to give special attention to interventions with individuals convicted of terrorism, including interventions to prevent them from radicalising others while they are in custody;
- to consider how public authorities and private actors address in an appropriate way the social challenges faced by individuals who have abandoned radicalised circles, possibly after having served a prison sentence, in order to help them to reintegrate into the society.

INVITES THE COMMISSION:

- to promote further the use of the Radicalisation Awareness Network by the relevant stakeholders to strengthen in particular the exchange of knowledge and best practices among Member States regarding disengagement and de-radicalisation;
 - to continue gathering and disseminate information concerning lessons learned within the fields of disengagement and de-radicalisation in the Member States;
 - to promote exchange of experience between Member States and third countries regarding disengagement and de-radicalisation in the context of the whole EU external relations;
 - to publish a compendium of the accumulated knowledge, experiences and best practices of Member States regarding de-radicalisation and disengagement."
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