



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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LIMITE

MEETING DOCUMENT

Subject : Draft Council declaration

The Council of the European Union:

1. Condemns the terrorist attacks on London and sends its profound condolences to the victims and their families. It stands united as it did after the attacks on Madrid last year, and is absolutely determined that the terrorists will not succeed.
2. Considers that the attacks are an affront to everything that the European Union stands for. Central to Europe's values is a commitment to democratic and open institutions within which people of all faiths and backgrounds can live, work and prosper together. The Council shall defeat the terrorists who reject that commitment and seek to use violence to impose their will.
3. Strengthens its commitment to combating terrorism and upholding the principles of freedom, security and justice. Working with the assistance of the EU Counter-Terrorism Co-ordinator, and with the European Parliament and the European Commission, the Council will accelerate implementation of the EU Action Plan on Combating Terrorism and other existing commitments.

4. Declares that its immediate priority is to build on the existing strong EU framework for **pursuing and investigating terrorists across borders**, in order to impede terrorists' planning, disrupt supporting networks, cut off any funding and bring terrorists to justice. The Council will:

- agree the Framework Decisions on the Retention of Telecommunications Data (October 2005), on the European Evidence Warrant (December 2005), and the exchange of information between law enforcement authorities (December 2005);
- combat terrorist financing by: agreeing by December 2005 a Regulation on Wire Transfers; implementing the Third Money Laundering Directive; putting in place national units to ensure financial investigation is a part of all terrorist investigations; developing robust asset freezing powers; agreeing a Code of Conduct to prevent the misuse of charities by terrorists (December 2005), and reviewing the EU's performance overall (December 2005);
- improve the exchange of police and judicial information through Europol and Eurojust, and improve support from Member States' security and intelligence services to the EU Situation Centre (report December 2005), in accordance with the Hague Programme;
- improve information sharing on lost and stolen explosives.
- use the peer evaluation process to improve national counter-terrorism arrangements and capabilities.

5. Underlines the importance of **preventing more people turning to terrorism** by addressing the factors that contribute to radicalisation and recruitment to terrorist groups. The Council will agree by December 2005 an EU Strategy setting out action on this issue.

6. Stresses the need to reduce vulnerability to attack by **protecting citizens and infrastructure**. The Council:

- calls on Member States to agree common standards for security features and secure issuing procedures for ID cards (December 2005), with detailed standards agreed as soon as possible thereafter;

- will develop further its ability to share visa and law-enforcement information via the Visa Information System (VIS) and second generation of the Schengen Information System (SISII) ensuring stronger and more flexible information systems to protect our borders;
 - calls on the Commission to bring forward the communication on enhanced interaction between the VIS, SIS II and Eurodac by November 2005, and proposal for law enforcement access to the VIS by September 2005 with a view to conclusions by December 2005;
 - will prioritise the roll-out of fingerprinting of visa applicants under VIS to regions/countries of high risk;
 - will revise and reinforce common standards on aviation security (end 2005), and implement agreed standards on maritime security and security at ports;
 - will agree a European Programme on the protection of critical infrastructure by the end of 2005 to raise standards across Member States;
 - calls on the Commission to bring forward the proposal on passenger name records by October 2005.
7. Highlights the importance of improving our ability **to manage and minimise the consequences of terrorist attacks**. The Council shall:
- encourage regular counter-terrorism exercises between Member States to test resilience;
 - develop emergency response capabilities both at Member State and EU level (report by December 2005);
 - develop arrangements to share information and enable collective decision-making in an emergency, particularly for terrorist attacks on more than one Member State (report by December 2005).
8. Restates the importance of supporting the victims of terrorism, including by making funds available to victims and their families.

9. Emphasises that this is a **worldwide agenda**. The Council shall reinforce its work with priority third countries, by increasing individual and collective commitments to support them. The Council will continue to work closely with the United States and other allies, and will continue to support the United Nations on agreeing the Comprehensive Convention against Terrorism.
10. Will continue to assess, in the light of the brutal and tragic incidents in London, whether further measures are necessary at the European level. The Council will review progress by December 2005, in order to ensure that the Union has the right framework for combating terrorism. A reinforced Action Plan will be presented to the December European Council.
