



EP 07 - On the impact of terrorist action on democratic societies –

JEF-Europe

- Condemns all forms of terrorism.
- acknowledges as a strong supporter of a democratic, liberal and open society the visible danger of future black-mailing of public institutions and governments by terrorist organisations.
- demands a strong and united strategy of the EU and its member states in countering any attempt to disrupt the world wide cooperation against terrorism. Societies that are strongly based on democracy, justice, and the respect of human rights will not give in to any efforts to undermine these principles.
- welcomes the proposals by the Irish presidency and the EU Commission for an enhanced cooperation in security matters.
- warns the EU and the international community against focussing exclusively on measures of intelligence and police services, without questioning their importance and effectiveness. The European Union represents a community of democratic and free societies. The commitment to human rights and the people's freedom is the strongest answer one can give to undemocratic and violent attacks.
- demands that the European Union and the international community as a whole undertake a study of the possible causes of terrorist activity, such as the sometimes miserable situation of immigrants as well as religious and ethnic minorities within the EU, and the desperate situation of citizens in the less advantaged regions in the world. It must be understood, that the provision of a sound economic, social and also political environment is the main basis to withstand the persuasion of fundamentalist and extremist streamings. The outcomes of this study should form the basis of a strategy to effectively prevent individuals resorting to terrorist means.

Annex 1

In its "**Action paper in response to the terrorist attacks on Madrid**" from March 18 2004 the European Commission presented a list of new proposals:

- The establishment of a European Register on convictions and disqualifications for individuals and corporate bodies, and a database of persons, groups and entities covered by restrictive measures for the fight against terrorism or under criminal proceedings for terrorist offences.
- Exchange of information through a new coordination mechanism within a third pillar umbrella
- Enhancing traceability and control of the weapons of terror and precursors
- Tackling bio-terrorism through an acceleration of the implementation of a Health Security Strategy and the establishment of a European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in 2005.

European Commission action paper in response to the terrorist attacks on Madrid:
http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/65|0|RAPID&lg=en&display=

Annex 2:

At an extraordinary meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting The Council agreed under the Irish presidency on a **draft Declaration on Combating Terrorism**.

The Council focused on the following:

- reinforcing operational cooperation through a renewed commitment to the optimum use of bodies such as Europol, Eurojust and the Police Chiefs' Task Force as well as other measures directed to preventing terrorist groups having access to instruments of their trade;
- improving arrangements for the sharing of intelligence including tasking SG/HR Solana with reporting, within 180 days, on how an intelligence capacity might be integrated within the Council Secretariat, with a view to informing EU policy;
- emphasizing implementation of existing legal instruments which can contribute to the fight against terrorism, in any event no later than June 2004;
- undertaking to take forward work quickly on new instruments of relevance including establishing rules on the retention of communications traffic data by service providers and exchanging information on convictions for terrorist offences with a view to adoption of these by December 2004;
- maximising the effectiveness of information systems and strengthening border controls and document security, with work to be taken forward on the proposal for a regulation establishing a European Borders Agency with a view to adoption by May 2004;
- speedy adoption of the Council Directive on compensation to crime victims; improving our capacity to prevent the financing of terrorism;
- strategic guidelines for a revised EU Plan of Action to Combat Terrorism;
- new institutional arrangements by way of the proposal for the appointment of a Counter Terrorism Coordinator and new possibilities for ensuring operational cooperation;
- examining measures in the area of transportation security and in terms of the external relations field.
- implementation of the European Security Strategy;
- the immediate implementation of the solidarity clause as envisaged by Article 42 of the draft Constitution for Europe.

Press Release "EU unites in the fight against Terrorism"

http://www.ue2004.ie/templates/news.asp?sNavlocator=66&list_id=438