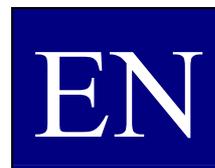




**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



11116/05 (Presse 187)

PRESS RELEASE

Extraordinary Council meeting

Justice and Home Affairs

Brussels, 13 July 2005

President

Mr Charles CLARKE

Secretary of State for the Home Department; Home Secretary
of the United Kingdom

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11116/05 (Presse 187)

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Main Results of the Council

The Council adopted a Declaration condemning the terrorist attacks on London.

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OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none

¹

- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- The documents whose references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site <http://ue.eu.int>.
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the abovementioned Council Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

PARTICIPANTS

The Governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

Belgium :

Mr Patrick DEWAELE
Ms Laurette ONKELINX

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Interior
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Justice

Czech Republic :

Mr Josef POSTRANECKÝ

Deputy Minister for the Interior with responsibility for
Public Administration
Deputy Minister for Justice

Mr Roman POLAŠEK

Denmark :

Ms Lene ESPERSEN

Minister for Justice

Germany :

Mr Otto SCHILY
Ms Brigitte ZYPRIES

Federal Minister for the Interior
Federal Minister for Justice

Estonia :

Mr Kalle LAANET

Minister for the Interior

Greece :

Mr Anastasis PAPALIGOURAS
Mr Giorgos VOULGARAKIS

Minister for Justice
Minister for Public Order

Spain :

Mr José Antonio ALONSO SUAREZ
Mrs Ana María DE MIGUEL LANGA

Minister for the Interior
Undersecretary, Ministry of Justice

France :

Mr Nicolas SARKOZY

Ministre d'État, Minister for the Interior and Regional
Planning
Keeper of the Seals, Minister for Justice

Mr Pascal CLÉMENT

Ireland :

Mr Michael McDOWELL

Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Italy :

Mr Giuseppe PISANU
Mr Roberto CASTELLI

Minister for the Interior
Minister for Justice

Cyprus :

Mr Doros THEODOROU

Minister for Justice and Public Order

Latvia :

Mr Ēriks JĒKABSONS

Minister for the Interior

Lithuania :

Mr Gintautas BUŽINSKAS

Minister for Justice

Luxembourg :

Mr Luc FRIEDEN

Minister for Justice, Minister for the Treasury and the
Budget

Hungary :

Ms Mónika LAMPERTH

Minister for the Interior

Malta :

Mr Tonio BORG

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Justice and Home
Affairs

Netherlands :

Mr Jan Piet Hein DONNER

Minister for Justice

Austria :

Ms Liese PROKOP

Ms Karin MIKLAUTSCH

Federal Minister for the Interior

Federal Minister for Justice

Poland :

Mr Paweł DAKOWSKI

Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of the Interior and
Administration**Portugal :**

Mr António COSTA

Mr Alberto COSTA

Ministro de Estado, Minister for the Interior

Minister for Justice

Slovenia :

Mr Dragutin MATE

Mr Lovro ŠTURM

Minister for the Interior

Minister for Justice

Slovakia :

Mr Daniel LIPŠIČ

Mr Vladimír PALKO

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Justice

Minister for the Interior

Finland:

Mr Kari RAJAMÄKI

Minister for the Interior

Sweden :

Mr Thomas BODSTRÖM

Minister for Justice

United Kingdom :

Mr Charles CLARKE

Baroness ASHTON of UPHOLLAND

Secretary of State for the Home Department; Home
SecretaryParliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for
Constitutional Affairs**Commission :**

Mr Franco FRATTINI

Vice-President

Other participants :

Mr Michael KENNEDY

President of Eurojust

The Governments of the acceding States were represented as follows:

Bulgaria :

Mr Anton STANKOV

Minister for Justice

Romania :

Mr Vasile BLAGA

Ms Monica MACOVEI

Minister for Administration and the Interior

Minister for Justice

ITEMS DEBATED**COUNCIL DECLARATION ON THE EU RESPONSE TO THE LONDON BOMBINGS**

The Council adopted the following Declaration:

"The Council of the European Union:

1. Condemns the terrorist attacks on London. It sends its profound condolences to the victims and their families, in honour of whom two minutes of silence will be held across the European Union on Thursday 14 July at 12:00 (London time). It stands united in solidarity 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 universal values on which the European Union is based. Central to those values is a commitment to democratic and open institutions and societies governed by the rule of law within which people of all faiths and backgrounds can live, work and prosper together. The terrorists who reject that commitment and seek to use violence to impose their ideas will be defeated.
3. Strengthens its commitment to combating terrorism and upholding the fundamental principles of freedom, security and justice. Working with the assistance of the EU Counter-Terrorism Co-ordinator, and with the European Commission and the European Parliament, 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 on the exchange of information between law enforcement authorities (December 2005); adopt the Decision on the exchange of information concerning terrorist offences (September 2005);

- combat terrorist financing by: agreeing by December 2005 a Regulation on Wire Transfers; adopting the Third Money Laundering Directive and the Regulation on cash control by September 2005; agreeing a Code of Conduct to prevent the misuse of charities by terrorists (December 2005); reviewing the EU's performance overall (December 2005) and urging Member States to ensure that comprehensive financial investigation is a part of all terrorist investigations and to develop robust asset freezing powers.
- In addition, the Council urges Member States to:
- intensify the exchange of police and judicial information, in particular through Europol (and its Counter-Terrorist Task Force) and Eurojust, and improve support from Member States' security and intelligence services to the EU Situation Centre, in accordance with the Hague Programme (report December 2005);
 - improve information sharing on lost and stolen explosives, including by drawing on the Commission's forthcoming communication on explosives.
 - implement the recommendations that arise from the peer evaluation process in order to improve national counter-terrorism arrangements and capabilities.
 - make full use of joint investigation teams.
- The Council calls on the Commission to:
- present proposals on data protection principles in the field of law enforcement and, in accordance with the Hague programme, on the principle of availability by October 2005 and, on that basis, to bring forward the communication on enhanced interaction between the VIS, SIS II and EURODAC and proposal for law enforcement access to the VIS by November 2005.
5. Underlines the importance of **preventing 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 the ability to share visa information via the Visa Information System (VIS) and law-enforcement information via the second generation of the Schengen Information System (SISII), ensuring stronger and more flexible information systems to protect our external borders and internal security;
- will prioritise the roll-out of biometrics, i.e. facial recognition and fingerprinting of visa applicants under VIS to regions/countries of high risk;
- urges Member States to take a collaborative approach to the provision of biometric capacity to visa issuing posts;
- will revise and reinforce common standards on aviation security (end 2005), and urges Member States to implement agreed EU standards on maritime security and security at ports;
- will agree a European Programme on the protection of critical infrastructure, including where appropriate road and rail transport, by the end of 2005 to raise standards across Member States;
- calls on the Commission to bring forward the proposal on air line 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 invites:

- Member States to undertake regular joint counter-terrorism exercises to test resilience;
- the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and the Commission, as appropriate, to report by December 2005 on the development of:
 - emergency response capabilities both at Member State and EU level, including those required to respond to a bio-terrorist attack, and building on civil protection modules of the Member States, ;
 - arrangements to share information, ensure coordination and enable collective decision-making in an emergency, particularly for terrorist attacks on more than one Member State.

8. Restates the importance of solidarity and support to the victims of terrorism, including by making funds available to victims and their families.

9. Emphasises that this is a **worldwide agenda**. The EU and its Member States will continue to support the key role of the United Nations and will work within that forum to reach agreement on the Comprehensive Convention against Terrorism at the UN Summit in September and to develop a global counter-terrorism strategy. The Council and the Commission shall reinforce work with priority third countries, by increasing individual and collective commitments to technical assistance and capacity building to support them, including in the area of countering radicalisation and terrorist financing. The European Union will continue to work closely with the United States, other partners and key international bodies.

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, including on national implementation of EU measures 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."

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

None
