



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council Conclusions on enhancing cooperation in the area of countering radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism

*28822nd ECONOMIC and FINANCIAL AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 8 July 2008*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"Concerned about the threat to the European Union and the safety of its citizens deriving from terrorism as demonstrated most recently through arrests in different Member States, notably in the United Kingdom, Germany and Spain,

Convinced that the process of radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism within the European Union and outside must be countered and stopped wherever possible,

Emphasising the need to raise awareness of radicalisation and recruitment and for further efforts to counter radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism in the EU,

Recalling the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy's objectives: "prevent, protect, pursue and respond", which require work at national, European and international levels to reduce the threat from terrorism,

Recognising that the challenge of combating radicalisation and terrorist recruitment lies primarily with the Member States, but that EU efforts in this field can provide an important framework to help coordinate national policies, share information and determine good practices,

P R E S S

In accordance with the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism and in particular its objective of developing our understanding of the problem of radicalisation and recruitment, detecting such behaviour as soon as possible and disrupting the activities of the networks and individuals who draw people into terrorism,

Taking into account that the threats deriving from terrorist organisations and networks and the means to counter them vary greatly among Member States,

Drawing attention to the goals and measures outlined in the Radicalisation and Recruitment Action Plan,

Underlining the EU's determination to promote and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms as set out in Article 6 TEU and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union as proclaimed by the European Council on 12 December 2007,

- (1) STRESSES the importance of an efficient exchange of information between the Member States as well as a high level of cooperation between competent authorities at both national and EU levels.
- (2) DESIGNATES the Working Party on Terrorism to exchange analysis or government assessments on radicalisation and recruitment and invites the Working Party on Terrorism to consult the relevant Council bodies in this field.
- (3) INVITES the Member States and the Commission to take concrete steps to exchange best practices and to discuss the possibility of elaborating methodologies which could be used for assessing the effectiveness of measures to counter radicalisation and recruitment, taking into account the differences in national experiences in this area.
- (4) CALLS upon Member States to launch further joint initiatives in the different areas of countering radicalisation and recruitment not yet covered by existing national or EU initiatives.
- (5) CALLS upon those Member States with most experience of countering radicalisation and recruitment in a certain field to share their best practices in that area.
- (6) WELCOMES the initiative by the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator to give new impetus to the implementation of the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism, including the invitation to Member States to take the lead in developing different aspects of countering radicalisation and recruitment, for instance through joint projects.
- (7) ENCOURAGES the implementation of existing initiatives at Member State and EU levels and calls for their further development and the dissemination and assessment of their results within the appropriate EU fora.

- (8) URGES the Member States and the European Commission to combine efforts and resources, for instance through joint development and implementation of projects, to provide adequate financial means to ensure a broader implementation of the Radicalisation and Recruitment Action Plan.
 - (9) WELCOMES the work of the European Commission on various aspects of countering radicalisation and recruitment, *inter alia* the studies being carried out on violent radicalisation and the preparation of a Communication on the subject.
 - (10) ENCOURAGES the European Commission to make the results of its sponsored research projects and relevant initiatives in the area of radicalisation and recruitment available to Member States as soon as possible."
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