



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 25 February 2010
6870/10 (Presse 44)

EU Internal Security Strategy

The Council approved, after a public debate, an Internal Security Strategy for the European Union ([5842/2/10](#)) - one of the priorities of the Spanish Presidency in the area. The European Council will be invited to endorse the document, in accordance with Article 68 TFEU, and the Commission is expected to adopt a communication on concrete actions in the area.

The strategy lays out a European security model, which integrates among others action on law enforcement and judicial cooperation, border management and civil protection, with due respect for shared European values, such as fundamental rights. Its main objectives are:

- to present to the public the existing EU instruments that already help to guarantee the security and freedom of EU citizens and the added value that EU action provides in this area;
- to further develop common tools and policies using a more integrated approach which addresses the causes of insecurity and not just the effects;
- to strengthen law enforcement and judicial cooperation, border management, civil protection and disaster management.

P R E S S

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The strategy highlights challenges the EU is facing, including terrorism, organised crime, cyber-crime, drug and arms trafficking, trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation of minors and child pornography, economic crime and corruption, and even youth violence. Natural and man-made disasters, such as forest fires and energy shortages, also require cross-border preparedness and response. Another challenge is to address common phenomena that pose threats to citizens across Europe, for example road accidents.

The strategy puts a strong focus on prevention. Member states need to step up information sharing, making full use of biometric and other technologies.

Prevention also means tackling the root causes and involving a wide range of actors. Cooperation will be sought for instance with schools, in order to prevent young people going down the criminal path. In the private sector, financial institutions can contribute to the prevention of money laundering. Civil society organisations could play a role in running public awareness campaigns.

Since internal security depends to a large extent on external security, it is necessary to work closely with the EU's neighbours and other countries as well as with international organisations.

The European Council of 10/11 December 2009, echoing the Stockholm Programme adopted at the same time, called for an internal security strategy that would further improve security in the EU and thus protect the lives and safety of European citizens. It asked to tackle, in particular, organised crime, terrorism and natural disasters.

