



EUROPEAN UNION

~FACTSHEET~

THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

A swift strategic response to major terrorist attacks

Immediately after the 9 September 2001 attacks in the US, the EU responded with an “*Action Plan on the Fight Against Terrorism*”, encompassing measures to be taken within the Union, as well as new policies for our dealings with other countries. This Action Plan was revised at the December 2001 European Council. Following the Madrid bombing on 11 March 2004 the European Council’s “*Declaration on Combating Terrorism*” gave renewed political impetus to EU efforts among Member States.

Action taken...

...in the field of *Justice and Home affairs*:

- Introduction of the **European Arrest Warrant** to reduce the ability of terrorists and other criminals to evade justice by exploiting differences in national legal systems;
- **Mutual recognition of judicial orders** to freeze and confiscate assets;
- **Common definition of terrorist offences**, created an agreed EU list of terrorist individuals, groups and entities, established minimum sentences for terrorist offences, and criminalised the direction of, support for and incitement to terrorist activity;
- Set-up of **Eurojust** to improve co-ordination between EU magistrates and prosecutors;
- **Europol** developed capabilities to collect and analyse of terrorist-related information.

...in the field of *Transport and Border Security*:

- Set-up of **European Agency for Management of the External Borders** (which becomes operational on 1 May 2005) to ensure a high and uniform level of control and surveillance on the EU’s external frontiers;
- Regulation introducing **minimum security standards and biometric identifiers into passports** and other travel documents issued by Member States;
- Initiation of the **Visa Information System (VIS)** which will allow the exchange of data regarding visa applications and applicants between Member States;
- **Legislation strengthening customs controls** to protect EU borders and citizens has been launched;
- **Security legislation for airports/aircraft and harbours/shipping**. A new Energy and Transport Security Directorate has been established within the Commission. A new European Commission inspectorate is monitoring security measures across the Union.

...with regard to *Terrorist Finance*:

- Set-up, in line with the relevant Security Council Resolutions, of a **list of terrorist entities and individuals**, implemented by Community Regulations ordering the freezing of all funds and assets belonging to those suspected of terrorism or of financing terrorism;

- Decision on **new anti-money laundering directives** and proposition of measures to extend the anti-money laundering defences to cover financing of terrorism;
- Proposition of measures to **restrict the movement of cash** across the EU's external frontiers;
- **Intensification of exchange of information on suspicious transactions** between Member States (Financial investigative units);
- An **electronic database** containing all relevant data concerning persons, groups and entities subject to EU financial sanctions has been developed.

...with regard to *Health Security and Civil Protection*:

- A mechanism to facilitate and support **civil protection assistance** in the event of major disasters, including terrorist attacks has been developed;
- An enhanced programme for **EU preparedness and response** to nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical agent attacks has been developed;
- A **Health Security Committee** to develop and implement health security policy has been established;
- A **rapid alert system** with national contact points for improved early warning of Nuclear Radiological, Biological and Chemical (NRBC) attacks has been established;
- Participation in international programmes such as the G7 sponsored **Global Health Security Initiative**.

...in the field of *external relations*:

- Support for the key role of the United Nations inter alia, by promoting the full implementation by all states of the 12 **international counter-terrorism conventions** and protocols and the early adoption of a comprehensive UN Convention against Terrorism and the Convention against Nuclear Terrorism;
- **Work with international bodies** like the UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, OSCE, Council of Europe, G8 and Financial Action Task Force (FATF);
- Development of **counter-terrorism related technical assistance** for third countries (around 80 countries in total, including a number of specially selected priority target countries) including for the drafting of counter-terrorism legislation; financial law and practice; customs law and practice; immigration law and practice; extradition law and practice; police and law enforcement work; illegal arms trafficking and judiciary capacity-building;
- Including of **effective counter-terrorism clauses** in all agreements with third countries, and
- Using **development assistance** to erode the support base for terrorist networks, through a focus on poverty reduction, good government and participatory democracy.

Increased cooperation between the EU and the US

As a result of 9/11, the EU has massively increased cooperation with the US on terrorism. In addition to intensive cooperation between intelligence and police services on both sides of the Atlantic, the following measures have been taken:

- The conclusion of **agreements on Extradition and on Mutual Legal Assistance**. As a result, requests for extradition will be handled much faster, US and European agencies will be in direct contact, extradition will be possible for many more offences, authorities will have

access to bank accounts on the other side of the Atlantic for the investigation of serious crimes, joint EU-US Investigative Teams can be set up;

- The conclusion of **agreements on the transfer of PNR data** (Personal Name Records) held by airlines to US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) as well as on the **expansion of customs co-operation to cover container security** and to develop new joint approaches to enhanced trade security.
- Working together on the establishment of **global security standards**, like the International Ships and Ports Security Certificates at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the passenger name records and sky marshals at the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and container security and seals at the World Customs Organisation (WCO).
- The setting up of a new **Policy Dialogue on Border and Transport Security** (PDBTS), allowing for early warning on projected measures and for joint initiatives;
- The signing of **two agreements between Europol and the US law enforcement agencies**, including the sharing of intelligence and personal data;
- The establishment of **contacts between Eurojust and the US Justice Department**.

Continued determination

The December 2004 European Council reiterated its unyielding determination to combat the continuing terrorist threat through a comprehensive and integrated approach reinforcing both internal and international cooperation, in accordance with the principles on which the European Union is founded. Amongst the priorities for future action:

- Enhanced co-operation between EU police and security services;
- New controls on cash transfers;
- Proposals to prevent the misuse of charities;
- More effective measures to identify and freeze terrorist funds and assets;
- Strengthened civil protection to deal with the consequences of terrorist attack;
- Establishment of a network of national counter-terrorist experts to provide assistance to third countries.

For more information go to:

The EU-US relations website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/us/intro/peace2.htm#cou

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