

Foreign Terrorist Fighters

The Additional Protocol to Council of Europe
Convention No. 196





Background

- Council of Europe – intergovernmental regional organisation; 47 member States; set up in 1949
- Work is based on three pillars: Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy
- Council of Europe active in assisting its member States in combating terrorism since the 1970's



Background (cont.)

- CODEXTER Committee (Steering Committee of experts on terrorism) with 47 members + observers
- Focus is currently (2014 – 2015) on:
 - "foreign terrorist fighters"
 - radicalisation
 - terrorists acting alone



Convention on Prevention of Terrorism

- Adopted in 2005 and entered into force in 2007
- Currently 30 States Parties
- Obliges States Parties to criminalise a series of acts deemed crucial for the promotion of terrorism
- Provides an international framework for cooperation between the contracting States



Convention on Prevention of Terrorism

- Article 5 – Public provocation to commit a terrorist offence
- Article 6 – Recruitment for terrorism
- Article 7 – Training for terrorism



Additional Protocol

- Additional Protocol is based on UNSCR 2178 (24 September 2014)
- Adopted on 19 May 2015



Additional Protocol

- Article 2 – Participating in an association or group for the purpose of terrorism
- Article 3 – Receiving training for terrorism



Additional Protocol

- Article 4 – Travelling abroad for the purpose of terrorism
- Article 5 – Funding travelling abroad for the purpose of terrorism
- Article 6 – Organising or otherwise facilitating travelling abroad for the purpose of terrorism



Additional Protocol

- Article 7 – Exchange of information
- 24/7 basis exchange of police information



Some food for thoughts

- Prevention is better than reaction!
- Counter-terrorism measures must be proportionate and acceptable in a democratic society – not undermining it!
- Combating terrorism has many facets: Important to understand (not condone!) the motivations of terrorists.



Some food for thoughts

- How can we stop young people from becoming foreign terrorist fighters?
- Role of social media and other Internet based platforms in radicalising and ultimately recruiting foreign terrorist fighters?
- Balance between security and liberty?



Thank you for your attention!

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