

Terrorism: towards an improved harmonization of the use of special investigation techniques

Strasbourg, 06.05.2013 – As part of its action against terrorism, the Council of Europe will organise a conference on the use of special investigation techniques on 14 and 15 May in Strasbourg to discuss existing standards and guidelines, and the need to update them.

To protect society from terrorism and organised crime, law-enforcement must apply modern investigation methods including interception of telephone and Internet communication, electronic surveillance, undercover operations and other means known as "special investigation techniques" aimed at gathering information without alerting the suspect.

Such techniques must be regulated to ensure the respect of human rights and the rule of law with regard to suspects, victims and third persons. Obviously, if practice varies widely from country to country, the information gathered will be of limited use in criminal proceedings across jurisdictions.

Organised in cooperation with the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, the OSCE and the League of Arab States, the conference will examine the existing international legal frameworks and identify new developments in this area since the adoption in 2005 of a Council of Europe [Recommendation](#) on "special investigation techniques" in relation to serious crimes including acts of terrorism.

The participants will also discuss challenges faced by states when applying such techniques and best practices to overcome them, while fully respecting human rights and the rule of law.

Practical information

The opening session will be open to the press (Palais de l'Europe, Room 1, 2nd floor). Interviews may be arranged with participants.

[More information](#)

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