

Press Release

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Europe gets tough with terrorists

Statement by Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe:

Strasbourg, 21.02.2007 - I am delighted to announce a major step forward in the European fight against terrorism. The [Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism](#) will come into force on 1 June, as a result of its ratification by Romania today (*).

This Convention provides for an effective, robust and fair response to the threat of terrorism, one which stops more terrorists than it helps to recruit. We should be grateful to Romania for this breakthrough allowing the Convention to enter into force, but it is essential that the rest of our member states follow suit.

The Convention establishes as criminal offences several acts which lead to acts of terrorism, such as incitement, recruitment and training. It also reinforces international co-operation in the prevention of terrorism by modifying existing arrangements for extradition and mutual assistance. In short, this Convention will help to save human lives everywhere in Europe.

The Convention was opened for signature by the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in May 2005. It served as a precursor for anti-terrorist measures at the global level and was followed by the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1624(2005), which echoes the Council of Europe approach to the fight against terrorism.

(*) Entry into force on 1 June 2007 for the following countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine.

Further information: www.coe.int/gmt .

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 46 member states.