



EUROPEAN UNION

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Introduction

The European Union is hereby submitting a profile on its activities in the field of counter-terrorism. The Memorandum of Understanding, signed between the Council of Europe and the EU in May 2007, provides for promotion of co-operation between the two organisations by exchanging the views on their respective activities, as well as encourages efforts to intensify co-operation and ensure coordination of action on issues of mutual interest, including terrorism. The implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding is ongoing and an inventory is being prepared on already existing co-operation, in order to identify the areas where co-operation could be enhanced.

It is hoped that the submission of this EU-profile will contribute to co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union in this important field.

EUROPEAN UNION POLICY

The strategic commitment of the European Union is to play a leading role in the global effort to combat terrorism while respecting human rights, and to make Europe safer, allowing its citizens to live in an area of freedom, security and justice. In December 2005 the European Council adopted the **European Counter-Terrorism Strategy**, which has provided the framework for EU activity in this field. The strategy groups all actions under four headings - PREVENT, PROTECT, PURSUE, RESPOND. This commitment has been strengthened after the attacks in Madrid and London. The EU is aware that terrorism remains a threat to the political foundations of the European Union as well as to the life and well-beings of its citizens and will therefore constantly revise and adapt its Strategy.

To coordinate the various actions an EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (EU CTC) has been nominated, lastly on 19 September 2007. His role, which includes 6-monthly reports on implementation of the various Strategies, can be divided in three parts:

- **Service to Member States:** to promote efficient co-operation and coordination between the institutions and services within the Member States in order to achieve an efficient

implementation of the EU Strategy and Action Plan to combat terrorism;

- **Listening to member states:** Member States are the main responsible for the fight against terrorism. The EU supports the co-operation between the member states and promotes the exchange of best practices.
- **Looking for concrete solutions:** implementation of the various measures adopted after 9/11, has encountered problems and solutions have to be found. The focus will include the EU and Council of Europe instruments, as well as the information sharing between the Member States and EUROPOL and EUROJUST.

1. EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism

In December 2005, the Council adopted the European Union Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism. The Strategy sets out three general strands for EU action: to disrupt the activities of networks and individuals who draw people into terrorism, to ensure that voices of mainstream opinion prevail over those of extremism and to promote—yet more vigorously—security, justice, democracy and opportunity for all. The Strategy and the accompanying classified Action Plan contain both joint standards and new measures. While recognising the primacy of the Member States in the field of radicalisation and recruitment, the Strategy proposes a set of specific measures for implementation at European level. These measures cover all three pillars and require close co-operation between the Council and the Commission. The Counter-Terrorism Coordinator updates the Strategy and the Action Plan for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism on yearly basis.

2. Media Communication Strategy (MCS)

The Action Plan on combating Action Plan on Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment adopted in December 2005 instructed the Council, in consultation with the Commission to draw up a communication strategy with the purpose of combating radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism through effective communication of EU values and policies in the media.

On this basis the MCS was developed and adopted by the Council in July 2006 consisting of three main parts:

- 1) key messages on counter-terrorism;
- 2) suggestions for how to deliver the key messages to various audiences;
- 3) a common lexicon which has been expanded over time.

The strategy is designed to use communication of EU values and policies to prevent terrorism; however, it is not exclusively concerned with communication on counter-terrorism. It should be used in the context of EU communication on a range of topics that may have a bearing on processes of radicalisation, such as integration, human rights, the rule of law, development assistance, etc.

The Counter-Terrorism Coordinator has been invited to report on implementation of the Media Communication Strategy on yearly basis.

3.Strategy on fight against terrorist financing

Given importance to the issue of the terrorist financing the European Union adopted a separate Strategy on fight against terrorist financing in 2004. The aim of the present strategy is to give a critical overview of the EU actions to date against a background of changing trends in terrorist financing. On the basis of this overview, a number of recommendations are made on how EU actions against terrorist financing might be further strengthened. The Counter-Terrorism Coordinator has been tasked to report on implementation of the Strategy on fight against terrorist financing on a 6-monthly basis.

Another important policy document is the **European Security Strategy**, drafted under the responsibility of the EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) Javier Solana and adopted by the European Council on 12 December 2003. The strategy is the policy document that guides the European Union's international security strategy. The strategy underlines that in order to ensure security for Europe in a globalising world, multilateral co-operation within Europe and abroad is imperative, because no single nation is able to tackle today's complex challenges. As such the strategy identifies a string of key threats Europe needs to deal with: terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, regional conflict, failed states and organised crime. The EU continues to develop co-operation in these areas and to improve its defences.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Relevant legislation at EU level

The EU has made extensive use of its so-called "third pillar" (police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters) in order to enhance the fight against terrorism. Significant progress has been achieved in the past few years, both in judicial co-operation and in police co-operation.

1. With regard to **judicial co-operation**, the EU has mainly worked in the following areas:

- **Mutual recognition:** mutual recognition of judicial decisions in criminal matters is replacing step by step, within the European Union, mutual legal assistance and extradition procedures. The main features of mutual recognition are the complete "judicialisation" of the procedure (governmental authorities are not involved any more in the decision), its acceleration, the partial abolition of double criminality requirement and the strict limitation of grounds for non recognition. The first implementation of this principle is the European Arrest Warrant which is applicable since January 2004 and which is considered as an important success. Mutual recognition is also applicable to other types of judicial decisions, such as decisions ordering the freezing of assets.
- **Approximation of national legislation:** through the Framework Decision of 13 June 2002, the EU has adopted a common definition of the "terrorist offence" and of the "terrorist group" and EU Member States have implemented these notions in their national law. Furthermore, the EU Council is currently discussing, on the basis of a proposal from the European Commission, amendments to this framework decision. These amendments aim at inserting the offences of "public provocation to commit a terrorist offence", "recruitment for terrorism" and "training for terrorism". Criminalisation of these offences is provided in the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS 196). The objective is to incorporate these notions in EU legislation while at the same time avoiding any delay in the ratification process of the convention.
- **Eurojust:** because of its permanency (Eurojust is an EU body located in the Hague) and its composition (every Member State has designated among its judicial authorities a national member for Eurojust), Eurojust facilitates the coordination of multilateral cases of judicial co-operation. This is particularly useful in the fight against terrorism which is among the

main priorities for Eurojust. It is the only field in which the Council has set specific and detailed obligations for Member States on the systematic transmission of information to Eurojust. An instrument aiming at the strengthening of Eurojust is currently discussed by the EU Council.

- Judicial co-operation with third states takes place: 1) on the basis of international instruments between the EU member state and the third State concerned (such as bilateral agreements, Council of Europe conventions and UN conventions; 2) and, where applicable, on the basis of agreements for judicial co-operation in criminal matters concluded by the EU and the third State concerned (see for example the EU-US agreements on extradition and on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters).

2. With regard to **police co-operation**, the main EU achievements and goals can be described as follows:

- **Mutual access to national databases:** the EU Council has finalised (but not formally adopted yet) a Decision, based on the Treaty of Prüm (2005), which provides for mutual access to national databases on vehicle registration, fingerprints and DNA samples. This will enable a competent police authority in a Member State to search directly (but on a hit/no hit basis for fingerprints and DNA) a database located in another Member State. This will facilitate and speed up police co-operation in the field of terrorism.
- **European databases :** national authorities of the Schengen area already use the Schengen Information System (SIS) which contains several alerts on persons and objects useful to combat terrorism (such as alerts on persons to be arrested and surrendered, stolen passports, objects to be seized, persons or vehicles to be searched, ...). The SIS will be replaced in the near future by a SIS II which, among other changes, will allow the use of biometric data. Furthermore, national competent authorities will be able, in the near future, to access the Visa Information System in the framework of prevention or investigation of terrorism.
- **Europol:** Europol assists national authorities investigating terrorism cases by providing operational analysis through its analytical work files (AWF). It also provides strategic analyses (including the annual Terrorism Situation and Trend Report). Sharing of information at Europol allows to pool resources together and to improve this analysis. Europol also coordinates the

project called "Check the Web" aiming at monitoring and providing analysis of radicalisation and recruitment related activities in the Internet.

3. With regard to **protection of critical infrastructure and civil protection**, the main EU achievements and goals can be described as follows:

Civil Protection

Over the past years, several European Council conclusions have called for a substantially stronger capacity at EU level for the prevention, preparedness and response to disasters in the EU, be they natural or man-made, including from a terrorist origin. Under the Solidarity clause of the Lisbon Reform Treaty, the EU must assist the Member States struck by a disaster, using all the means available to it. At the same time, EU is called upon to help EU citizens in third countries and assistance from the EU is increasingly being asked by third countries.

At the level of the Community, the main instruments for reaching these objectives are Council Decision 2007/162/EC, Euratom of 5 March 2007 establishing a Civil Protection Financial Instrument,¹ and Council Decision 2007/779/EC/Euratom of 8 November 2007 establishing a Community Civil Protection Mechanism (recast)² Both are major elements in the "Protect" chapter of the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Civil Protection Mechanism is a system for technical support and mutual assistance among the Member States and for EU assistance to third countries in the event of major disasters. At its core is the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) operated by the Commission. It is here that, with the support of a Common Emergency and Communication System (CECIS), information is received from the Member States and the various EU Rapid Alert Systems and that Civil Protection and other assistance can be requested and be offered. In addition, the MIC can provide EU assessment and coordination teams and assist Member States in identifying and pooling expertise, transport resources and equipment.

The Civil Protection Financial Instrument mainly provides for the improved preparedness of the Civil Protection teams of the Member States through networking, exercises, mobilisation of EU-expertise and joint training. It also contributes to the prevention of disasters by actions for the accident-awareness and self-protection of populations and to the further development and establishment of

¹ OJ L 71, 10.3.2007, p. 9.

² OJ L 314, 1.12.2007, p. 9.

detection and early warning systems serving the territory of the Member States.

Protection of Critical Infrastructure

The protection of critical infrastructure contributes to the "Protect" strategic objective of the European Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The European Council of 17-18 June 2004 asked the Commission to prepare an overall strategy to enhance the protection of critical infrastructures. In 2004, the Commission submitted a Communication on "Critical Infrastructure Protection in the Fight against Terrorism". This was followed in 2006 by another Communication on the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection. The Council reacted by adopting on 19 April 2007 conclusions on a European Programme on Critical Infrastructure Protection which emphasise the responsibilities of the Member States and of the owners/operators and which propose to spread best practices within the EU and to create a CIP contact group.

In parallel, the Commission submitted a Proposal for a Directive on the identification and designation of European Critical Infrastructure and the assessment of the need to improve their protection. The proposed Directive focuses on the procedure for the identification and designation of European Critical Infrastructure. It also asks the owners/operators of those infrastructures to elaborate an Operator Security Plan (an advanced business continuity plan) and to designate a Security Liaison Officer (linking the owner/operator with the national authority responsible for critical infrastructure protection). Each Member State will inform the Commission at a generic level of the threats, vulnerability and risks present in particular critical infrastructure sectors. Any measures that should emerge out of these assessments will be done on an "ad hoc" basis, i.e. only where necessary and with the use of appropriate binding or non-binding tools.

The examination of this proposal is advancing well.

DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE EU

1. Exchange of information

Considerable efforts have been made since 2001 in the sector of processing and exchange of information. New rules will soon improve the exchange of data on requests³ and work is progressing on direct access to national databases in

³ Framework Decision of 18 December 2006 on simplifying the exchange of information.

the context of police co-operation (Decision incorporating the Prüm Convention into Union law) or judicial co-operation (access to criminal records). Access to data contained in European databases (SIS, VIS and Eurodac) is improving gradually. The Directive on the retention of telecommunications data and the Commission's recent initiative on EU PNR data aim at increasing the availability of data which is produced by private players but is crucial for investigations into terrorism. Finally, a general framework for the protection of data in this sector is being finalised.

Pooling information at European level makes it possible to carry out strategic and operational analyses which are not made possible merely by ad hoc co-operation between Member States in specific cases. A priority for the near future in this field should be the monitoring of implementation of Decision 2005/671/JHA of 20 September 2005, which provides for the systematic transmission of information to Europol and Eurojust.

Sharing of information with third countries, in particular with the United States, is vital to effectively combating terrorism. At the same time, care must be taken to ensure that personal data transferred to third countries are sufficiently protected and are not used for unacceptable purposes or procedures. The draft Framework decision on data protection in the context of police and judicial co-operation, on which the Council reached a general approach at its meeting of 7 and 8 November 2007, lays down certain data protection requirements with regard to onward transfer of personal data received from another Member State to a third State. One of these requirements is that the third country concerned must have an adequate data protection regime.

2. The package of counter terrorist measures adopted on 6 November 2007

On 6 November 2007, the Commission adopted a package of proposals aimed at improving the EU's capabilities in the fight against terrorism. The package contains a series of proposals dealing with the criminalization of terrorist training, recruitment and public provocation to commit terrorist offences, the prevention of the use of explosives by terrorists and the use of airline passenger information in law enforcement investigations. It also contains a report on the implementation of one of the key legal instruments of the EU's counter terrorism arsenal, the Framework Decision on combating terrorism.

Dealing with those who support terrorism

The Commission proposes amending the Framework Decision on combating terrorism making public

provocation to commit a terrorist offence, recruitment and training for terrorism punishable behaviour, also when committed through the Internet. The proposal aims to equip our legal systems across the EU with the adequate tools to bring to justice the criminals who spread violent propaganda providing terrorism tactics and instructions on how to manufacture and use bombs or explosives to provoke others to commit terrorist acts while, at the same time, ensuring that personal data remain well protected and fundamental rights safeguarded.

The proposal follows the Convention on the Prevention of terrorism of the Council of Europe, a ground-breaking international instrument in the field, which has been signed by most Member States and already ratified by some of them.

The proposal is currently under discussion in both Council and Parliament.

Practical action to enhance the security of explosives

The action plan aims to enhance the security of explosives, calling, among other, for the establishment of rapid alert systems on lost and stolen explosives and suspicious transactions, a network of European bomb-disposal experts, the development of an explosive forensic capability in Europol, research on security of explosives and detonators as well as schemes for the vetting of personnel involved in the industry.

In December 2007, the JHA Council adopted Strategic Orientations on the Security Enhancement of Explosives. These Strategic Orientations endorse the priorities for action identified in the Commission Action Plan.

Establishing an EU-wide system for the exchange of Passenger Name Records (PNR)

The Commission proposes that air carriers make available PNR data for flights coming to or leaving the EU (in and outbound EU flights) to specialized national units carrying out risk assessments and law enforcement and counter terrorism missions. Providing law enforcement agencies in the EU the possibility of obtaining advance passenger information and analyzing it is an important tool to detect terrorist travel and disrupt future plots. The use of this tool can, however, only be effective if it is fully respectful of the fundamental right of data protection and citizen given all due guarantees.

The proposal is currently under discussion in both Council and Parliament.

Second report on the implementation of the Framework Decision on combating terrorism

A report on the implementation of this key instrument of the EU's arsenal of counter-terrorism legislation is also presented. This report includes information on the situation in the Member States that joined the Union in 2004 and 2007. Despite progress since the first report the lack of correct transposition of the EU norms is still disappointing.

The package is completed by a communication setting the scene for EU action in this field and placing the proposals presented in the framework of the EU Counter Terrorism Strategy. Terrorism remains a long-term, multifaceted and complex threat requiring EU action addressing all its aspects – prevention, protection, prosecution and responding if an attack occurs. EU action adds value by providing adequate tools to Member States and addressing cross border issues and common interests across the EU. European action must both seek to protect EU citizens and go hand in hand with respecting fundamental rights.

3. Further actions envisaged by the Commission

Communication updating on Commission's activities in the field of Counter Terrorism

The Commission produced a Communication entitled 'Terrorist recruitment: addressing the factors contributing to violent radicalisation' during 2005, as an initial contribution to an EU Strategy and Action Plan on Radicalisation and Recruitment which was adopted by the JAI December 2005 Council as was foreseen by the Hague Program. The Commission is now working on the follow-up to its Communication as well as on implementing the actions under its responsibility in the EU Strategy and Action Plan.

These have included the awarding of contracts for studies in the fields of violent radicalisation, the creation of an Expert Group on Violent Radicalisation tasked with providing the Commission with expertise on how to address the phenomenon, brainstorming on the role of education in the prevention of violent radicalisation, particularly among youth during a conference organised by DG JLS in October 2007. Finally, DG JLS sent in July 2007 a questionnaire on best practices on violent radicalisation to the Member States.

Based on these inputs, the Commission will prepare a communication in 2008 on violent radicalisation, which has been considered as a political priority.

Policy package on meeting Chemical Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats

On the basis of an invitation addressed to it by the Council, the Commission intends to submit to it a package of policy proposals on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats in the first half of 2009. The package will consist of:

- a general/horizontal communication on CBRN;
- a Commission Staff Paper: Bridging security and health: Towards identification of good practices and recommendations on response to CBRN incidents and security of CBRN substances;
- an action plan on bio-preparedness;
- an action plan on radiological and nuclear risk reduction.

The focus will be on tangible deliverables and outcomes within the Prevent and Protect dimensions of the EU CT Strategy.

This policy package will continue, while following an "all-hazards"-approach, the actions undertaken under the Council and Commission Programme of 20 December 2002 to improve co-operation in the European Union for preventing and limiting the consequences of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear terrorist threats (CBRN Programme), which has led to better co-operation among Member States and EU Institutions in the areas of threat and risk assessment, prevention and vulnerability reduction, monitoring and identification of attacks, preparedness and response, research and international co-operation.

4. Activities of the Council (Working Party on Terrorism)

First round of peer evaluation on counter-terrorism

In 2002 the EU Council took the decision to carry out a peer evaluation in the field of counter-terrorism. The evaluation of 25 EU Member States, as well as Bulgaria and Romania, lasted until the end of 2006.

A follow-up report on the implementation of the general and specific recommendations on counter-terrorism in the Member States was presented in March 2007.

The evaluation focused on:

- the national responsibilities at the level of ministries, security and intelligence services and law enforcement agencies,
- the level of national and international coordination and co-operation, including exchange of information, in particular that relating to Islamist terrorism.

The Follow-up report invites Member States to update the Council General Secretariat on changes in counter-terrorism arrangements. Furthermore, the best practices identified throughout the evaluation process should be shared.

Second round of peer evaluation on counter-terrorism

The objectives of the second round of peer evaluation on the topic of preparedness and consequence management are the following:

- to provide an analysis of Member States' structures and capabilities in crisis management,
- to highlight good practices and to give recommendations where national structures may be enhanced and
- to identify practices likely to be applied in other Member States,
- to provide recommendations at EU level.

The evaluation visits to the Member States will start in the first half of 2008 and will last for two years.

Project on the transfer of best practices in the field of counter-terrorism to the Western Balkan countries

With the objective of following the EU external security policy, the Slovenian Presidency has decided to go further in drawing the Western Balkans closer to the EU. A co-operation initiative with the Western-Balkan countries in the field of counter-terrorism has been launched.

The objective of this project is to facilitate the development of the counter-terrorism arrangements in the Western Balkans on the basis of sharing the results of the first round of peer evaluation in the EU. In the course of the process, the EU would assess the counter-terrorism arrangements in these countries and, as a result of evaluation visits, possibly present specific recommendations to the countries regarding their counter-terrorism structures and measures.

A similar process was carried out successfully in Romania and Bulgaria prior to their accession. Participation in the first round of peer evaluation, which included applying the general and country-specific recommendations, allowed the two countries to improve their counter-terrorism arrangements.

The Slovenian Presidency will organise a seminar with the Western Balkan countries to present some of the EU general recommendations issued as a result of the first round of the peer evaluation. Subsequently, the EU Member States will consider

how to share these recommendations with the Western Balkans.

Close Circuit Television (CCTV) project

The Council General Secretariat is developing a project to study the use of the CCTV for law enforcement, in particular for fight against terrorism. The project assesses and compares the national legal systems regulating the use of CCTV and aims to identify best practices. The results of the study, based on the Member States' replies to two questionnaires, will be shared among the EU-27.

The role and effectiveness of CCTV were brought out particularly by the investigations into the London metro bombings and prevention of terrorist attacks on German railway.

The first questionnaire was sent out in November 2006 and the second one in August 2007. On the basis of the answers to these questionnaires the Council General Secretariat has drafted two documents: "CCTV: Summary of the Member States' Replies" and "CCTV: Preliminary Analysis".

During the Slovenian Presidency the final analysis of the answers will be issued, including best practices and possibly policy recommendations.

Enhancing the security of explosives

The establishment of a set of measures to enhance the security of explosives was one of the main topics of the Portuguese Presidency and continuous to be a priority during the Slovenian Presidency.

The Action Plan on enhancing the security of explosives is being studied by the Working Party on Terrorism. Europol has been providing expertise on the subject.

The main priorities of the Action Plan are the following:

- the establishment of an Early Warning System concerning explosives,
- the creation of a Network of Explosives Ordnance Disposal Units, and
- the improvement of the security of manufacturing, storage, transport and traceability of explosives.

The first Council Conclusions on that subject were adopted in December in 2007 and the approval of the Action Plan along with Council Conclusions is foreseen for April 2008.

Check the Web project

Check the Web is a bottom-up project to bring together specific expertise and knowledge regarding terrorist use of the internet. By methods such as burden sharing and pooling of resources, EU Member States streamline work in monitoring the internet, avoiding duplication and facilitating operational work.

Europol as the responsible body for carrying out the project is maintaining a web portal, an intranet-based application accessible to all EU Member States, which contains information on the following fields:

- Islamist extremist websites,
- statements of terrorist organisations (with translation if available), and
- Islamist extremist publications (with translation if available).

A sub-project on the media wing of Al-Qaida, As-Sahab, is being carried out in the framework of the Check the Web initiative.

The project, including developing the portal, is in its second phase now. Several improvements are being made to the portal related to the quantity and quality of information available. Member States are requested to contribute to the enhancement of the portal as much as possible.

The Check the Web project will continue during the incoming French Presidency. The main goals for the future are:

- extending access to the portal,
- enhancing the content of the portal, and
- opening access to third parties (countries which have signed an operational agreement with Europol and have a liaison officer in Europol premises).

Terrorist kidnapping

In April 2007 the German Presidency presented a project concerning the sharing of information on victims of kidnapping by terrorist groups. The aim of the initiative is to ensure a regular exchange of information on kidnapping cases, in particular the profile of the terrorist group and the victims.

The project includes compiling an overview of terrorist kidnapping cases since January 2002 and a list of contact points for exchange of information on the issue in the Member States.

1. Political dialogue

Counter-terrorism is a recurring topic at political dialogue meetings with European Union partners around the world. Counter-terrorism is discussed at all levels (expert level, Senior Official, Ministerial, and Heads of Government) and with all partners. Specific expert-level political dialogue meetings on counter-terrorism take place at least once a year with the United States, Canada, Russia and India. With other key partners, expert-level political dialogue meetings are organised on an ad-hoc basis.

2. Technical assistance

The European Commission provides *counter-terrorism related* technical assistance (such as police co-operation, training of judiciary, law sector reform) to more than eighty countries world-wide. The European Union has identified a number of priority countries for specific political dialogue and technical assistance in the field of counter-terrorism. EU needs assessment missions were carried out to Morocco and Algeria, and various fields were identified in which these countries could benefit from technical assistance. The Council Working Group on counter-terrorism "international aspects" (COTER) now coordinates delivery of technical assistance by EU Member States and the Commission to these two partners. Work on a third priority country is expected to begin in the near future.

3. Work with the United Nations and other international organisations

The United Nations provides the international legal framework for the fight against terrorism and a platform for an international consensus in this field. The EU is committed to strengthening international co-operation through the UN. COTER coordinates national efforts to introduce new UN instruments and reinforce existing UN instruments. These now consist of:

- relevant UN Security Council Resolutions

- 16 international counter-terrorism Conventions and Protocols
- the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

In its dialogue with third countries, the EU promotes universal compliance with UN resolutions, universal ratification and implementation of all 16 Conventions and Protocols, and full implementation of the UN Global CT Strategy. In addition, the EU works with other countries to achieve the adoption of a Comprehensive UN Convention against International Terrorism, containing a clear definition and an unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The EU actively assists some UN bodies, such as the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED).

Furthermore, the EU promotes universal compliance with 40 recommendations on money laundering and 9 special recommendations on terrorist financing, drawn up by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an international inter-governmental body for countering financial crime. With the entry into force on 15 December 2007 of the Third Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Directive, the largest part of the 40 recommendations have been implemented at the EU level. Most of the 9 special recommendations have also been implemented at the EU level.

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is an important framework for counter-terrorism co-operation. Each semester, the Member States of the EU and their Mediterranean partners hold a round of counter-terrorism consultations to monitor the implementation of the Euromed Code of Conduct on Countering Terrorism, agreed at the Euromed Anniversary Summit in November 2005. In addition, the European Union has occasional exchanges of views on counter-terrorism with other **regional** and multilateral organisations, such as the OAS, the OIC, and the OSCE. Counter-terrorism is a topic of annual experts meetings organised in the framework of ASEM and the ASEAN Regional Forum.