

Madrid, 12/05/09

DECLARATION

ADOPTED BY THE CONSULTATION OF THE PARTIES TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (CETS No. 196)

AT THE CLOSE OF ITS FIRST MEETING (Madrid, 12 May 2009)

“The Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, participating in the first Consultation meeting taking place on 12 May in Madrid, reiterated from the outset their commitment to promote and strengthen democratic values and human rights. They resolutely reaffirmed their determination to prevent and combat terrorism by all lawful means whilst ensuring full respect for democratic values, the rule of law and human rights and fundamental freedoms, as enshrined, in particular, in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. In their view, respect for these values is an essential component of any effective, long-term counter-terrorism strategy.

Fully aware of the suffering caused by terrorism, the Contracting Parties reaffirmed their profound solidarity with those persons who have been hit directly or indirectly by terrorist attacks and expressed their commitment to support the victims of terrorism and their close family.

On 16 May 2005, the Heads of State and Government signed in Warsaw the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism with the aim of increasing the efficiency of measures to prevent acts of terrorism and their negative impact on the full enjoyment of human rights, notably the right to life. This objective will be achieved through the adoption at national and international level of new measures foreseen by the Convention including enhanced international cooperation in preventing and prosecuting acts of terrorism and related acts ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice.

By virtue of this Convention the Parties have agreed to criminalise – whilst respecting human rights obligations – the offences of public provocation to commit acts of terrorism as well as the recruitment and training of terrorists. Moreover, for the first time, a legally binding treaty has provided for the obligation to adopt such measures as may be necessary to protect and support victims of terrorism.

This first Consultation of the Parties seeks to renew the commitment of the Parties to implement the Convention swiftly and completely and call all those member States which have not yet done so and other like-minded States to sign and ratify this Convention without delay. As the global threat of terrorism becomes more complex and terrorist groups abuse technologies to spread their propaganda and to recruit and train future terrorists, States must remain firm and jointly committed to effectively preventing acts of terrorism, avoiding areas of impunity.”