

**Briefing on the Counter-Terrorism Activities of the European Union (EU) by the EU Counter-Terrorism (CT) Coordinator, Mr. Gilles de Kerchove, before the Security Council Committee established pursuant to UNSC resolution 1373 (2001) on 9 September 2010**

**Summary Report**

With a view to enhancing the dialogue between the EU and the Committee established pursuant to UNSC resolution 1373 (2001) (Counter-Terrorism Committee - CTC), the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (the EU Coordinator) was invited by the Turkish Presidency of the CTC to brief the Committee on the EU's Counter-Terrorism activities on 9 September 2010. The EU CT Coordinator, after outlining the general framework for the EU's CT policy, provided an overview of the main aspects of the EU's CT Strategy.

At the outset, the EU Coordinator stressed the importance of a strong cooperation between the relevant entities of the EU and the UN, notably the CTC and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), and outlined the basis of EU's counter-terrorism activities, namely the 2002 EU Framework Decision on Combating Terrorism and the 2005 EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The EU Coordinator referred to annual reporting to EU Member States as a means of maintaining the political attentiveness on potential terrorist threats. In addition, EU Member States are provided with proposals for action on specific issues such as recruitment, terrorism financing, terrorist groups (e.g. PKK, LTTE), the CBRN threat, aviation and maritime security and projects in third States (e.g. Pakistan, Yemen, Sahel Region). With individuals and groups directed or inspired by Al Qaeda operating centres on European territory, the terrorist threat emanating from Islamist extremism remains the major challenge for Europe. Other threats come from anarchist or separatist groups such as ETA in Spain. The EU Coordinator underlined the importance to follow a strategic approach, i.e. to keep a steady pace and not to overreact in case of an attack.

After presenting the general EU policy framework, the EU Coordinator outlined the main aspects of the EU's CT Strategy: prevent, protect, pursue and respond, while indicating that the focus of EU activities had shifted from protection to prevention in recent years:

- Prevention – The EU is committed to preventing radicalisation leading to violence, terrorist recruitment and the use of the Internet by terrorist groups (e.g. for propaganda, training or fund-raising activities). In the last years, different projects at a local level have been initiated by several EU Member States. Reference was made to Danish de-radicalisation activities, British CT efforts in the field of media and strategic communication, a German led project "Check the web", dealing specifically with the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, a Belgian project on community policing and a Spanish project on the training of religious imams.

- ▣ Protect – This aspect includes all EU actions concerning the protection of people and infrastructures, including the security in the area of civil aviation and maritime transport.
- ▣ Pursue – The EU's CT Strategy recognizes the importance of police and judicial cooperation (cf. the European Arrest Warrant). In this regard, the importance of enhancing the cooperation between States in order to combat the financing of terrorism was emphasised.
- ▣ Respond – The EU Member States coordinate their efforts to respond to a crisis while paying particular attention to the victims of terrorism. Victims of terrorism have to be assisted appropriately and their voices be heard.

With a view to reviewing the EU's CT Strategy and enhancing cooperation between EU Member States, there is regular reporting on the implementation of projects under the Strategy.

The EU Coordinator underlined that in all its CT efforts, the EU strives for the full respect of fundamental rights, as well as for the protection of personal data. The EU's commitment to developing Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) in Counter-Terrorism was also emphasised, particularly in the field of the internet, CBRN, combating terrorist financing and for the protection of soft targets.

As regards the external dimension of the EU's CT efforts, the EU strives for strengthening cooperation with third countries and international organisations alike. The EU Coordinator referred to projects by the EU and its Member States in several countries and regions to assist and stabilize weakened States.

In the field of international cooperation, the EU Coordinator also mentioned the cooperation between the EU and the US pertaining to the closure of the detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, with EU Member States having received 25 Guantanamo detainees. In respect of collaboration between the UN and EU, the EU stands ready to improve coordination and the dialogue between New York and Brussels in order to exchange information and organise joint activities.

The EU Coordinator welcomed the UN's efforts to improve the listing and de-listing procedures in the framework of the 1267 sanctions regime and the recent appointment of the Ombudsperson pursuant to UNSC resolution 1904.

The EU Coordinator concluded his briefing by highlighting the consequences of the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 and explained the new mechanisms aimed at rendering the EU's action on the international scene more coherent and efficient, namely through the appointment of the High Representative for the EU's common foreign and security policy and the set-up of the European External Action Service.

\*\*\*\*\*