

EU Intervention

By

Mr. Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

Special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee commemorating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Committee

Interactive Session II: International cooperation, including relationships with key international and regional organizations and partnerships with United Nations bodies

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Transcription of a pre-recorded message delivered by Mr. Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

Like many of you, I would really have liked to be physically present to celebrate, all together, the 20th birthday of resolution 1373. This is a very important milestone in our efforts to combat terrorism and it is still very important given that the terrorism threat remains very high. All over, but in particular also in the European Union.

This resolution has brought all of us to improve our capability, but also the important steps that we have taken in applying this resolution. Such as criminalizing the act of terrorism, modifying our legislative framework and also taking measures in order to restrict the space for terrorists to actually operate; to move from one country to the other, PNR arrangements for example, to restrict the possibility to have access to firearms, explosive precursors, and financing as well. All the many things we have and are still doing in order to fight the use of illegal financing of terrorism.

The most important of all, we have, based on this resolution, developed tremendously the actual interactions amongst ourselves. Different authorities and operational bodies exchanging information, but not only that, also providing tools to get real time information at borders and police checks, making sure that our specialised services would also bring together the intelligence, their analysis of the situation and the understanding we have on the way terrorists operate. On all of this, we thank very much the improvement that came from the resolution.

Two points for the future that I wanted to raise today. The first one, the online dimension; in every terrorist act, certainly in Europe, there is an important trace of radicalization online. There is still way too much terrorism incitement material online. Companies are cooperating, the GIFCT is a very welcome initiative, but we all need to do more. We all need to do more to define, identify, withdraw this material, but also to crack down on the many different networks that are being used by terrorists in order to recruit and incite to commit those dreadful acts.

Second point, the victims. Victims are still too often deprived of their rights; their rights to protection, but also their rights to have an opportunity to reconstruct themselves. Reconstruction of an individual after losing someone to a terrorist attack or experiencing a terrorist attack takes time. Here I believe that in the context of the international community, we could also do better in constantly improving and reinforcing victims' rights and their applications.

Thank you very much and happy birthday resolution 1373.