

# Press Release

## Council of Europe Press Division

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## Statement by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the fight against terrorism

Strasbourg, 06.09.2006 - At today's meeting of the Committee of Ministers' Deputies, Terry Davis stated that "In recent days and weeks a number of terrorist attacks in several Council of Europe member states brutally demonstrated the fact that terrorism in Europe is not a passing phenomenon. It is not invincible, but it has become endemic, with a new generation of homegrown extremists, ready to strike against their neighbours, against their colleagues, against people they went to school with, against their fellow Europeans. Moreover, a few days ago, we marked the second anniversary of the Beslan massacre, one of the most tragic episodes in recent European history, which has shown that there are virtually no limits to the ruthlessness and cruelty of terrorists.

I want to use this opportunity to express my solidarity with the countries which have been affected by this recent wave of terrorist attacks. At the same time I also want to make an appeal for reinforced, concerted and focused Council of Europe action to strengthen our legal arsenal in the fight against terrorism. Terrorists can be defeated, but we must do better than words. This is why I am repeating my call for a speedier ratification of the Council of Europe anti-terrorist treaties, namely the Amending Protocol to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, and the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism.

None of these three critically important legal instruments has entered into force because not enough member states have ratified them. Three years since its adoption, the Amending Protocol to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism has been ratified by 22 countries. However to enter into force it requires ratification by ALL the parties to the main treaty, which are 44 countries to date. The Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism has been ratified by two member states and the Terrorist Financing Convention has not been ratified by anyone.

Instead of acting together, individual Council of Europe member states are left to react on their own. This is not good enough, but with proper political will in the capitals, it can change quickly and considerably, and I count on your help in getting there. I believe that there is no need to stress the magnitude of responsibility in matters where success or failure may be measured in human lives".

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