

Press Release

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Why terrorism?

A Council of Europe international conference

Strasbourg, 19.04.2007 – "Why terrorism? – Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism." The question will be at the centre of an international conference the Council of Europe is organising on 25 and 26 April in Strasbourg, to better understand the factors that prompt certain people to become involved in extremism and terrorism, in order to come up with new means of combating these phenomena.

Devoted to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in September 2006, and in particular to the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, the conference will focus on three main themes:

- Striking a balance between integration and respect for cultural diversity, and the role of inter-religious dialogue;
- The need for responsible, ethical and accountable foreign policy and governance;
- The underlying causes of terrorism, the reasons for its spread and preventive measures.

Debates will be moderated by Ambassador Peter Lizák, Chairman of the OSCE Security Committee, Anatoly Safonov, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for International Co-operation in the Fight against Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime, Ambassador Bruno Gain, Chair of the Rapporteur Group of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, responsible for coordinating the Organisation's work on terrorism, and Marja Lehto, Chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER).

The **opening of the conference** by Philippe Boillat, Acting Director General of Legal Affairs, on behalf of Secretary General Terry Davis, at **2.30 pm on Wednesday 25 April**, will be followed by an open debate, in which journalists present and accredited can take part. This debate will be led by Robert Parsons, specialist in international politics at France 24 television, and Rafael Benitez, the Council of Europe Anti-Terrorism Coordinator.

The conference will be attended by experts from the 46 Council of Europe member states and by organisations with observer status, representatives of other international organisations (including the [United Nations](#), the [OSCE](#), the [European Union](#), [Eurojust](#), [Interpol](#), the [Alliance of Civilizations](#), the [Club of Madrid](#) and the [World Conference of Religions for Peace](#)) and civil society.

The Council of Europe's work in this field is based on consolidating the legal bases for combating terrorism, safeguarding fundamental rights and combating the causes of terrorism.

The conference will also focus on the [Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism](#), due to come into force on 1 June 2007.

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 46 member states.

The **conference** is **open to the press** and will be **broadcast** in its entirety on the Council of Europe website, www.coe.int.

A **press conference** is scheduled for **Thursday 26 April 2007 at 1.30 pm** (Palais de l'Europe, Room 1).

For further information, see the special file www.coe.int/gmt and the thematic file www.coe.int/t/dc/files/themes/terrorisme/default_EN.asp

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