

# Press Release

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## **Terry Davis: "Key parts of the EU Commission's anti-terrorist package duplicate the 2005 Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism"**

Strasbourg, 7.11.2007 – The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Terry Davis, today made the following statement:

"The European Union can and should make a substantial contribution to the fight against terrorism by acting within its powers and building on existing national laws and international instruments. On the other hand, it should avoid duplication, which not only wastes resources but may also create confusion and double standards and ultimately undermine our collective response to the threat of terrorism.

"I therefore have some reservations about some of the latest proposals coming from the European Commission. While several proposed measures are justified and deserve full support, its key recommendations, namely to criminalise recruitment, training and encouragement of terrorists, are all covered by the Council of Europe Convention agreed by all Council of Europe Heads of State and Government in May 2005.

"I regret the fact that although this draft Council of Europe Convention was agreed by all 27 members of the European Union at our Summit in Warsaw in 2005 and has subsequently been signed by 21 of them, only four EU member states have actually ratified it.

"The best way to outlaw terrorist recruitment, training and propaganda in Europe would be to encourage further ratifications of existing Council of Europe standards rather than creating parallel ones."

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