



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 21 November 2008

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REV 2**

**JAI 608
ENFOPOL 220
PROCIV 168**

"A" ITEM NOTE

from : Coreper
to : Council

No. prev. doc.: 15170/1/08 REV 1 JAI 596 ENFOPOL 208 PROCIV 165

Subject : Draft Council Conclusions on the creation of a CBRN database

1. Delegations will find attached draft Council Conclusions on the creation of a CBRN database, approved by Coreper at its meeting of 12 November 2008.
 2. The Council is asked to confirm this agreement and to adopt the annexed text.
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DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON THE CREATION OF A CBRN DATABASE

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING that one of the aims of the European Union is to establish gradually an area of freedom, security and justice by developing common action among the Member States in the fields of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters,

RECALLING that for Europe the terrorist threat is a tangible reality and a challenge and that the European Union has a responsibility to equip itself with the tools needed to neutralise that threat,

EMPHASISING that the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorist threat looms particularly large because of its deadly potential and its psychological impact,

BEARING IN MIND that the Council conclusions of December 2007 state that tackling terrorist access to weapons and explosives, ranging from components for homemade explosives to CBRN products, is a priority under the European Union Counter-terrorism Strategy and under the European Union Strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,

BEARING IN MIND that, as part of its implementation of those Council conclusions, the Commission has announced its intention of submitting a package of CBRN-related measures in 2009 on the basis of broad consultation of Member States and stakeholders,

NOTING that while that threat seems less immediate than others, no scenario can be ruled out at a time when advances in science and public awareness of them require us to be ever more vigilant,

CONSIDERING that to combat this form of terrorism we need a realistic analysis of the threat and close cooperation between the agencies involved, particularly the intelligence and investigation services and the scientific community,

EMPHASISING that the problems related to the awareness and use of CBRN materials call for expert skills in advance threat assessment and dealing with suspect devices,

NOTING that the highly confidential nature of information exchange on CBRN matters requires the various European Union actors to know each other and to form genuine bonds of trust,

OBSERVING that the record of the seminar on the CBRN threat held in Paris on 30 and 31 October 2008 under the aegis of the French Presidency underlines the need to develop a European CBRN database,

CONCLUDES THAT MEASURES TO COMBAT THE CBRN TERRORIST THREAT SHOULD BE CONSOLIDATED BY FACILITATING EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN THE NRBC FIELD AND, TO THAT END:

CONSIDERS that in the interests of convergence, the relevant agencies should be encouraged to engage in closer operational cooperation, thereby increasing the sharing of experience and simple, secure exchange of information on CBRN matters,

INVITES EUROPOL, with the support of the European Commission, to develop and to host in the EBDS¹ the European CBRN database in which to gather and centralise technical information on NRBC terrorism-related events and CBRN products and materials which may be used with malicious intent,

INVITES EUROPOL to keep the Council informed of any measures it takes to implement these conclusions,

CALLS ON the Member States to take the necessary measures to feed the European CBRN database.



¹ European Bomb Data System