Fight against terrorism: protection of critical infrastructures

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The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Stavros LAMBRINIDIS (PES, EL) on protecting critical infrastructures as part of the fight against terrorism. The report called for a coordinated European strategy to protect vulnerable infrastructure in the Member States in the event of a terrorist attack or a natural disaster. Measures at national level should be harmonised and the EU institutions should set up a European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection, "financed by the Member States and/or by the owners and operators, on the basis of financial or other incentives". The committee also wanted national authorities to share information on any threats and create an early warning system.

However, MEPs stressed that responsibility for managing risk "ultimately rests with the owners and operators who are in charge of the day to day running of those infrastructures", although "the EU and Member States should assist, instruct, support and monitor industry at all levels of public authority".