Fight against terrorism: protection of critical infrastructures

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On 17 June 2004 the European Council decided to examine implementation of this Action Plan twice a year.

With the assistance of the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Gijs de Vries, the Luxembourg Presidency has updated the version of the Action Plan submitted to the European Council in December 2004.

The text approved the JHA Council today will be forwarded to the General Affairs Council and then to the European Council for adoption.

Overall, the EU Institutions, agencies and services have made progress in implementing the measures set out in the Action Plan:

- several important pieces of legislation have been adopted or are in the process of adoption, particularly in the area of JHA and the fight against financing of terrorism;
- the peer review of anti-terrorism arrangements in the 25 Member States is almost complete and the final report will be submitted to the Council next October;
- the Situation Centre (SitCen) has begun to produce analyses incorporating intelligence from internal and external sources. Moreover, a cooperation agreement between SitCen and Europol will be finalised before the end of the Luxembourg Presidency;
- both Europol and Eurojust have intensified their counter-terrorism activities;
- the Police Chiefs Task Force has developed an interesting draft initiative to support community policing;

- the implementation of the strategy to counter financing of terrorism is progressing satisfactorily;
- the external aspect has also developed in line with the guidelines adopted by the European Council last December.

However, the time lag between the general approach and formal adoption by the Council of legislation under the third pillar is too long. The Council took note of the work which must be accomplished before the end of the year, particularly as regards civil protection and protection of critical infrastructure.