



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council Conclusions on aviation security against terrorist threats

*3207th JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 6 and 7 December 2012*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Reaffirming the Union's commitment to fighting terrorism, to securing air transport and, above all, to protect human lives,

Recalling the terrorist attack conducted in July 2012 at the Burgas airport in Bulgaria,

Having regard to the Commission's communication on the EU Internal Security Strategy in Action: Five steps towards a more secure Europe¹, which contributes to the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy and which calls on the EU to establish by 2014 a coherent risk management policy linking threat and risk assessments to decision making,

Acknowledging that only an integrated approach within the EU involving the enhancement and further development and harmonisation of existing aviation security rules, EU coordination and exchange of information as well the enhancement of global standards will deliver the highest level of aviation security,

Noting the progress made by the EU in the aviation security field, notably in the implementation of the EU Action Plan on strengthening air cargo security², in accordance with the Council conclusions of December 2010³,

Welcoming the implementation, of air cargo security control measures based on joint threat and risk assessments and the reassessments of the threats and risks to aviation security related to liquids, aerosols and gels with a view to support related policy making,

¹ 16797/10 JAI 990

² 16271/1/10 REV 1 AVIATION 184 JAI 1021 ENFOPOL 353

³ 17563/10 AVIATION 201 JAI 1053 ENFOPOL 363 + COR 1

P R E S S

Reaffirming its conclusions on enhancing the links between internal and external aspects of counter-terrorism⁴, and in particular the important role of EU IntCen,

Welcoming the Council conclusions of 25 October 2012 on the protection of soft targets from terrorist activities⁵ which highlighted the need for various approaches to be developed, including national assessments of the vulnerabilities of soft targets,

Emphasizing the need for effective communication, processes and mutual understanding at the public level, at the private level and between the public and the private sector, as well as the importance of the private sector in implementing aviation security measures,

Noting the Presidency conclusions of the Conference on “Aviation security against terrorist threats” held in Nicosia on 31 October 2012⁶,

Underlining the EU's commitment to reinforcing global aviation security in cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organisation and partner countries and the importance of close collaboration with private operators,

Noting, thanks notably to the work of the ICAO, that passenger identity data collected upstream of the flight can be instrumental in aviation security,

ADOPTED the following conclusions:

The Council welcomes and encourages the cooperation underway between relevant Member States' authorities, inter alia in the AirPol context, to identify, develop and share good practices with a view to enhance the prevention and protection of both aviation infrastructures and related soft targets against terrorist attacks.

The Council requests the Commission, the High Representative and the Member States, in accordance with their respective roles and areas of competence, to consider extending the risk assessment activities hitherto conducted on air cargo and liquid explosives, to other domains of aviation security to be commonly agreed upon in the remit of Regulation 300/2008 to support risk based policy making. Due consideration should be given to relevant data for aviation security.

The Council invites the Commission, the High Representative and the Member States, in accordance with their respective roles and areas of competence, to include the exchange of information and best practice on aviation security where applicable in their dialogues with third countries and international organisations; and to consider the possibilities under appropriate programmes to assist third countries in their efforts to implement effective aviation security measures."

⁴ 11075/11 ENFOPOL 185 COTER 54 JAIEX 56 COSI 47 CATS 47

⁵ 14591/12 ENFOPOL 316

⁶ 16252/12 ENFOPOL 374 AVIATION 174 JAI 800