



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on the information sharing mechanism on changes in the national threat level

*3051st JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 2 and 3 December 2010*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"THE COUNCIL

RECALLING the objectives set by EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy¹ to protect citizens and infrastructure, to reduce the Member States' vulnerability to attack, to ensure EU level capacity to make collective policy responses to the terrorist threat, to further strengthen and implement our commitments to disrupt terrorist activity and pursue terrorists across borders, and to make best use of the capability of EU bodies to combat terrorism;

BEARING IN MIND that while Member States have the primary responsibility for improving the protection of key targets, the interdependency of border security, transport and other cross-border infrastructures require effective EU coordinated action;

BEING AWARE that not all Member States have a formalized system of national threat or alert levels;

RECOGNIZING THAT decisions on and information about national threat levels are solely under Member States' competence and that this is not affected by these conclusions;

DRAWING ATTENTION to the Stockholm programme acknowledging the need for coherence and consolidation in developing information management and exchange;

¹ 14469/4/05 REV 1 JAI 423 ECOFIN 353 TRANS 234 RELEX 639 ECO 136 PESC 1010
COTER 72 COSDP 810 PROCIV 174 ENER 172 ATO 103

P R E S S

REQUESTS MEMBER STATES TO

- (1) inform each other of any change in their national threat level, as reflected where appropriate by the national alert level, as soon as possible and at the latest in parallel to the official announcement
- (2) to that end, inform the EU Joint Situation Centre (SITCEN) of the change through the relevant channel; the State might also decide to provide additional information through this channel, to be distributed to the other 26 Member States, explaining the reasons for the change,
- (3) provide SITCEN with an already existing contact point operating on a 24/7 basis (a) to receive such information and (b) to respond in due time to possible further inquiries.

REQUESTS SITCEN TO

- (1) immediately inform the respective contact points in all the other Member States after receiving information about a change in a Member State's national threat level and in parallel,
 - (2) pass this information to the President of the European Council, to the President of the Commission, to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, to the Commissioner for Home Affairs, to the Heads of delegation to the Standing Committee on operational cooperation on internal security (COSI), to the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and to Europol."
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