

Chair's Summary on the 8th ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism

10-11 June 2010 – Brussels, Belgium

1. The 8th ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism was held in Brussels, Belgium, on the 10th and 11th of June 2010. The Conference was guided by the ASEM Copenhagen Declaration on Cooperation against International Terrorism adopted at the 4th ASEM Summit in 2002 and built on the results of previous ASEM Conferences on Counter-Terrorism held in Beijing (2003), Berlin (2004), Semarang (2005), Copenhagen (2006), Tokyo (2007), Madrid (2008) and Manila (2009).
2. The Conference was hosted by Belgium with the support of the European Union as co-host and China, the Philippines and Vietnam as co-sponsors. The Conference was chaired by Ambassador Thomas Baekelandt, Counter-Terrorism Coordinator at the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs of Belgium, and Mr. Gilles de Kerchove, Counter-Terrorism Coordinator of the European Union.
3. The Conference recognized that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations continues to be one of the most serious threats to peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed. The Conference underlined the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, international and domestic law, including applicable international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. The Conference stressed that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all States, and international and regional organizations to impede, impair, isolate and incapacitate the terrorist threat.

4. The Conference confirmed the United Nations leading role in the fight against terrorism and reaffirmed its support for the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the further institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). The Conference also underlined support for the September 2010 Review of the United Nations' Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. While it remains the primary responsibility of States to implement the UN Global Strategy, the Conference emphasized that ASEM and other international, regional, subregional organizations and fora play a key role in the dissemination of best practices and the implementation of the Strategy through increased coordination with the UN. The Conference called for further engagement with the CTITF to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counterterrorism efforts of the United Nations system.
5. The Conference identified emerging trends in the fight against terrorism. The Conference noted the changing nature and tactics of terrorist groups. The Conference acknowledged law enforcement, intelligence gathering and information exchange on an international level as indispensable in the fight against terrorism. The Conference underlined the need to better identify the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and the challenges in preventing and combating terrorism.
6. The Conference shared experiences to protect critical infrastructure and to strengthen regional cooperation to address new threats to aviation security. The following key issues were discussed:

- Concerning the protection of critical infrastructure

The Conference exchanged ideas on policies to be developed or refined to protect critical infrastructure. This discussion was led by the European Commission. A definition of critical infrastructures was proposed and the EU policy and legislative framework to protect critical infrastructure was presented. The Conference noted the need of

international communication of designed critical infrastructure and the need to exchange best practices in protecting these infrastructures.

- Concerning aviation security

The Conference exchanged ideas on strengthening inter-regional cooperation to address new threats to aviation security. This discussion was led by Vietnam and co-sponsored by China.

The Conference recognized that civil aviation remains a major target of terrorism, especially after several failed attacks have occurred recently. The Conference shared practices and experience to ensure aviation security and expressed support for the strengthening of international and regional cooperation to develop practical measures and promote capacity building activities to enhance aviation security in Asia and Europe as a whole. The Conference called upon states with relevant expertise in aviation security to provide assistance to states in need on a bilateral or multilateral basis.

7. The results of this Conference will be presented to the next ASEM Summit, in Brussels, Belgium on the 4th and 5th of October 2010. The 9th ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism will be held in Asia in 2011.