



Statement on behalf of the European Union

By

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Mr. Chairman,

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Ukraine and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

1. Let me first warmly welcome you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the Bureau. We are confident that you will conduct the discussions of the Working Group in a very competent and efficient manner.

We would also like to thank the coordinator, Maria Telalian, for her tireless efforts over the past years in organizing consultations among delegations towards reaching a consensus on the outstanding issues of negotiation.

2. The fight against international terrorism remains one of the priorities of the EU's external action. As we have underlined many times in the past, the EU firmly believes that the fight against terrorism must be in compliance with international law, in particular, international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law and that all measures against terrorism must respect the rule of law. This is why we feel that the development of an international legal instrument which would coherently supplement the international body of law in the fight against terrorism is essential.

3. The EU reiterates its call on all States to consider becoming parties without delay to the existing international conventions and protocols against terrorism. We highly commend the important assistance provided by UNODC and its Terrorism Prevention Branch in this regard.

4. The second review of the implementation of the UN's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in September of this year has once again confirmed the commitment of the international community to take collective action against international terrorism. Resolution 64/297 adopted on that occasion by consensus reminds us of the importance of bringing to a close the negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in order to facilitate legal cooperation on a global level. The conclusion of the Convention and the work that lies ahead of us to achieve this goal is thus an important part of this global effort by the international community to fight international terrorism.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

5. The discussions we had during the Ad Hoc Committee in the spring of this year indicate that we may have an opportunity to make a significant move forward in the near future, and we hope that this session of the Working Group presents an opportunity to make progress in solving the remaining issues. We should use the available time to resume genuine negotiations as soon as possible and address the core of the outstanding issues.

6. The EU remains firmly committed to achieving consensus on this subject in the UN, and to remain actively engaged in the negotiations in the framework of this year's session of the Working Group, and we assure you and the coordinator of the EU's full support of your efforts. Together with other delegations we are willing to give serious consideration to the Coordinator's 2007 package proposal and to focus on reaching a consensus on the outstanding issues.

7. As to the issue of convening a high-level UN conference on counter-terrorism, our position remains unchanged. This issue should be discussed following the agreement on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.
