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Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

***ad hoc* Sub-Committee to participate in the events**

organised by

**the Interparliamentary Parliamentary Assembly of the
Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA-CIS)**

Tavrishesky Palace, Saint Petersburg

27-28 March 2017

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Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Ad hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the events organised by the IPA-CIS, Saint Petersburg, 27-28 March 2017

Agenda

of the joint meeting

of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (PACE) and the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation (IPA CIS)

**St Petersburg, Russian Federation
27 March 2017, 9 am**

**Tavrishesky Palace
47 Shpalernaya str.**

1. Opening of the joint meeting

Introductory statements by:

- Mr Maulen Ashimbaev, Chairperson of the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation (IPA CIS), Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Mr Mogens Jensen, Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (PACE)

2. Agenda of the joint meeting

Adoption of the agenda

3. Combating financing of terrorism and involvement of citizens in terrorist activity (ISIS/Daesh)

.Statements by:

- Mr Tiny Kox, member of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (PACE)
- Mr Leonid Slutsky, member of the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation (IPA CIS)
- Mr Leonid Kalashnikov, member of the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation (IPA CIS)

.Exchange of views

4. Exchange of views on current political issues

5. Co-operation between the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation (IPA CIS) and the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (PACE)

Opening statement by Mr Mogens Jensen

I would like to welcome all members and participants to today's joint meeting.

May I thank Mr Ashimbaev for the invitation to hold a joint meeting and also to participate in the conference on terrorism tomorrow – we see it as a follow up to our exchange of views in Paris on 15 December last year.

Our joint meeting today, and our participation in the conference tomorrow, are based on the agreement on co-operation between the two Assemblies concluded in 1997 – twenty years ago.

You will recall, Mr Chair, that your proposal to revive the practice of regular dialogue between the two bodies was welcomed by many, but not by all, members of our Committee.

In fact, some colleagues expressed doubts as to the usefulness of such meetings, and even opposed them being organised. However, the vast majority of the Committee was in favour.

I strongly believe that an open dialogue, even on difficult issues on which we may disagree, is much needed – in particular in the current political climate.

Our joint meeting and the conference tomorrow offer us an opportunity for dialogue, for exchanging views and comparing experiences in facing common problems.

I am sure that we will find new opportunities in future to keep this dialogue on-going.

As agreed, the main issue for discussion today and tomorrow is the challenge of terrorism. Unfortunately, in the last few years, our Assembly, and our Committee in particular, have had to deal with this issue too often, as a reaction to tragic events which hit several countries in Europe and beyond.

Just last week, we witnessed an attack on pedestrians, and on the Parliament building, in London.

My colleague Tiny Kox will present in a few minutes the key elements of our Assembly's position with regard to terrorism, based on recent Assembly Resolutions. Copies of these texts in Russian, English and French are here at your disposal.

Let me just briefly touch upon three more things:

Firstly, let me welcome Mr Pedro Agramunt, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Since his election in January 2016, President Agramunt has been actively promoting the campaign "No Hate No Fear" which contributes to mobilising political leaders and civil society to stand united in front of common challenges to our values.

Secondly, I would like to inform colleagues that our Committee has recently tabled a new motion for report on *Protecting and supporting the victims of terrorism*.

In fact, the lives of those who survive terrorist attacks, as well as of those who lose their loved ones, change dramatically and will never be the same again.

These people need special care and attention on the part of our societies. We will prepare a report on this sensitive issue and try to find appropriate responses to specific needs of victims.

Last but not least, I would like to remind all colleagues from both Assemblies of the importance of common legal instruments to combat terrorism.

The Council of Europe has a whole range of conventions in this field; I will only mention two of them: the 2005 Warsaw Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and the additional protocol to it signed in 2015 and aiming to address the problem of foreign fighters.

Both instruments are open for accession to non-member States. Accordingly, I encourage members of our Assembly to make sure that their governments sign and ratify these treaties; I also invite parliamentarians from other countries to call their governments to join these legal instruments.

Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Ad hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the events organised by the Interparliamentary Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA-CIS), Saint Petersburg, 27-28 March 2017

Synopsis

The **ad hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the events organised by the IPA-CIS** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation) on 27 and 28 March 2017, with Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) in the Chair,

on 27 March 2017:

- took part in the **joint meeting** with the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation (IPA CIS);
- heard **introductory statements** by Mr Maulen Ashimbaev, Chairperson of the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation (IPA CIS), Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Mr Mogens Jensen, Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (PACE); and Mr Pedro Agramunt, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- **Combating financing of terrorism and involvement of citizens in terrorist activity (ISIS/Daesh):** heard statements by Mr Tiny Kox, member of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (PACE), Mr Leonid Slutsky and Mr Leonid Kalashnikov, members of the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation (IPA CIS), followed by an exchange of views;
- held an **exchange of views on current political issues**;
- **Co-operation between the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation (IPA CIS) and the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (PACE):** took note of proposals by Mr Maulen Ashimbaev, Chairperson of the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation (IPA CIS);

on 28 March 2017:

- took part in the parliamentary conference on combating international terrorism co-organised by the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

PROGRAMME
Parliamentary Conference on Combating International Terrorism

Organisers: CIS Interparliamentary Assembly and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

28 March 2017

10.00–10.20 Opening of the conference

Addresses:

Valentina MATVIENKO, Chairperson of the IPA CIS Council, Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Christine MUTTONEN, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

10.20–12.00 I plenary meeting. International Cooperation in the Field of Security and Countering Terrorism

Co-chairs:

Valentina MATVIENKO, Chairperson of the IPA CIS Council, Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Christine MUTTONEN, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Kassym-Jomart TOKAYEV, *Speaker of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan*

Pedro AGRAMUNT, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Chynybai TURSUNBEKOV, *Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic*

Pedro ROQUE, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

Mahmadsaid UB Aidulloyev, *Speaker of the Majlisi Milli of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan*

Paul BEKKERS, Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General
Statement: The OSCE's Contribution to Confronting International Terrorism

Sergei LEBEDEV, Chairman of the Executive Committee — CIS Executive Secretary

Valentin MIKHNEVICH, **Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus on National Security**

Leonid SLUTSKY, Member of the IPA CIS Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation, Chairman of the Committee of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on International Affairs

Andrey NOVIKOV, Head of the CIS Anti-Terrorism Center

Konstantin KOSACHEV, Deputy Chairman of the IPA CIS Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation, Chairman of the Committee of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on Foreign Affairs
Statement: Parliamentary Opportunities of Creation Global Anti-Terrorist Coalition: Experience of the Federation Council

Sacha Sergio Llorentty SOLÍZ, Chairman of the United Nations Security Council 1540 Committee, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the UN
Statement: Implementation of the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 1540 (2004) and the Role of Parliamentarians

Ilya ROGACHEV, Director of the Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation for New Challenges and Threats
Statement: Current Issues of International Action Against Terrorism

12.00–13.30 Lunch

13.30–15.00 II plenary meeting. Humanitarian Aspects of Counter-Terrorism Activity

Chair:

Nikolai KOVALYOV, Special Representative of the OSCE PA President on Anti-Terrorism

Elena RIGACCI HAY, Acting chief of the Implementation Support Section III of the Terrorism Prevention Branch, UNODC
Statement: Technical Assistance Work of UNODC in the Sphere of Terrorism Prevention

Ilyas UMAHANOV, Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Azay GULIYEV, Vice-President of the OSCE PA
Statement: International (Humanitarian) Law and Terrorism: Challenges and Responses

Tiny KOX, Chairperson of the Group of the Unified European Left in the PACE, Member of the Delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the PACE

Taymuraz MAMSUROV, Member of the IPA CIS Permanent Commission on Defense and Security, Member of the Committee of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on Defense and Security
Statement: Improvement of Legislation on Countering Terrorism

Ivana DOBESOVA, Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, Head of the Czech Parliamentary Delegation to the OSCE PA
Statement: Respect for Human Rights and the Rule of Law in the Global Combat against Terrorism

Mohammad EZEDYAR, First Vice Speaker of the Meshrano Jirga of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Asaf HAJIYEV, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
Statement: Role of International Cooperation in Combating Terrorism

Vladimir POTAPENKO, Deputy Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Hayk BABUKHANYAN, Deputy Chair of the IPA CIS Permanent Commission on Science and Education, Member of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Aase MICHAELSEN, Member of the Norwegian Delegation to the OSCE PA
Statement: Countering Terrorism and Radicalization of Youth, Including in Cyberspace

EI-Walid SUKKARIEH, Member of the Parliament of the Lebanese Republic

Pekka HAAVISTO, Member of the Delegation of the Republic of Finland to the OSCE PA
Haji Mohammad ABDUH, Member of the Wolesi Jirga of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Gennady LUTAY, Expert of the Committee of the United Nations Security Council's resolution 1540
Statement: Status of Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and Work of the 1540 Committee

Omer FISHER, Acting Head of the Human Rights Department of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Vladimir TSURKO, Head of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Russian Federation
Statement: Security of States and Protection of the Rights of Refugees

Debates

15.00–15.30 Coffee-break

15.30–17.00 **III plenary meeting. Economic and Social Grounds of the International Security Framework**

Chair:

Muhammadyusuf Saidali IMOMZODA, Member of the IPA CIS Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation, Chairman of the Committee of the Majlisi Milli of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan on Coordination of Activity with Majlisi Namoyandagon, Executive Authorities, Public Associations, Media and Interparliamentary Relations

Bariša ČOLAK, Speaker of House of People of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Member of the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE PA
Statement: International Co-operation in the Field of Security and Countering Terrorism

Victor Paul DOBRE,
Vice-President of the OSCE PA, Member of the Delegation of Romania to the OSCE PA
Statement: Economic Approaches to Counter Terrorism in the Area Covered by the European Neighborhood Policy: the Romanian Experience

Ikhom ABDULLAEV, Chairman of the Committee of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Information and Communication Technologies
Statement: Republic of Uzbekistan: Overview of National Practices in Combatting Terrorism

Maximilian REIMANN, Member of the Swiss Delegation to the OSCE PA
Statement: Contribution of the Swiss Financial System in Combating Financing Terrorism

CHUN Jung Bae, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Statement: Building Trust-Based Relations and Economic and Humanitarian Status – Two Important Factors for Strengthening Cooperation to Ensure International Security

Marie-Françoise BECHTEL, Member of the French Delegation to the OSCE PA

Talip KUCUKCAN, Head of the Delegation of the Turkish Republic to the PACE

Shakiba Matin HASHIMI, Member of the Wolesi Jirga of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Celil GOCER, Member of the Delegation of the Turkish Republic to the OSCE PA
Statement: Economic and Humanitarian Aspects of Fight Against Terrorism

Nathalie AMORATTI-BLANC, Head of Monacan Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

Statement: Combatting Terrorism: Humanitarian Aspects

Bodo BAHR, Secretary General of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

Alanna ARMITAGE, UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Statement: The Role of Young People in Combating Violent Extremism

Alexander KLIMENCHENOK, Deputy Director of the Federal Service of the Russian Federation for Financial Monitoring

Statement: Streamlining of Fight Against Financing Terrorism Across the CIS

Mansur Goib BUKHORIZODA, Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Tajikistan

Alexander VINIDIKTOV, Director of the Information Programs Division of the Collective Security Treaty Organization Secretariat

Statement: Measures of the Collective Security Treaty Organization to Counter the Activities of Terrorist and Extremist Organizations in Modern Conditions

Valdimir GUTOROV, Head of School of Theory and Philosophy of Politics, Department of Political Science of St. Petersburg State University (Russian Federation)

Statement: Modern Terrorism as a Social Phenomenon: Matters of Theory

Alexey NOVOZHILOV, Head of School of Ethnography and Anthropology, Institute of History of St. Petersburg State University (Russian Federation)

Statement: Disguising International Terrorism as Traditional National Values

Debates

17.00–17.15 Closing of the conference

Co-chairs:

Nikolai KOVALYOV, Chair of the II plenary meeting

Muhammadyusuf Saidali IMOMZODA, Chair of the II plenary meeting

Closing remarks

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON COMBATING TERRORISM

Statement by Mr Pedro Agramunt, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Plenary session I: International co-operation in the field of security and countering terrorism

Honorable Madam Chairperson Matvienko, Honorable Madam President Muttonen, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen, Colleagues,

It is a great honour and a special privilege to participate in this conference and I would like to thank the co-organisers – the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe – for this initiative and for the invitation.

We came here today because we are all fully aware of the gravity of the terrorist threat and of the need to take urgent action together to combat it. Terrorists seek to destabilise our societies and to destroy our way of life.

They seek to restrict our fundamental freedoms and rights, and to destroy the very foundations of our societies – the supreme value of human life and dignity, democracy, the principles of respect, tolerance and non-discrimination.

By propagating suspicion and mistrust, they want to turn members of a community against each other in order to divide us and create a sense of fear and hate among our citizens.

From this analysis, one can draw only one conclusion. As democratic societies, we have the inalienable right, and the inseparable obligation, to defend ourselves against the terrorist threat.

As Parliamentarians, we bear a special responsibility in this process. Let me now highlight four areas of action where I believe we should concentrate our efforts.

Firstly, it is our duty to reaffirm – publicly and in the strongest possible terms – our absolute condemnation of all acts of terrorism. No arguments can justify terror. Our role as politicians is particularly important in this context because we have a pedagogical role vis-à-vis our citizens: we should reject any attempts to justify terrorist attacks. We must applaud and support political and civic initiatives that denounce the fear and the hatred that terrorists seek to create.

The Parliamentary Assembly's #NoHateNoFear initiative is an ideal tool at our disposal. Through this initiative, we seek to engage politicians, civil society actors and individuals in a vast civic movement against the hate and fear that terrorists seek to create. About a year ago, I presented this initiative in this hall, speaking at the 44th plenary session of the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member States.

Since its official launch, in June 2016, #NoHateNoFear has gained the support of many parliamentarians, Heads of State, Ministers, high officials, including the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I am proud and humbled by what we have achieved over 9 months, especially because among the supporters of the #NoHateNoFear initiative we count those who have a personal experience of terrorism - Antoine Leiris, Luciana Milani, mother of an Italian victim of the Bataclan attack, Bjorn Ihler, one of the survivors of the Utøya attack, to give some examples.

They overcame their trauma with reinforced conviction of the values of humanity and democracy. Their experience is a strong motivation for us to continue, while putting a special emphasis on the need to protect the victims of terrorism. This is a priority activity for our Assembly.

Secondly, our actions to combat terrorism must strictly respect our human rights and rule of law standards, as well as the democratic principles and values on which our societies are based.

We have to be aware of the risk that counterterrorism measures may introduce disproportionate restrictions or sap democratic control and thus violate fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, in the name of safeguarding State security. We should not allow this to happen. If we fail, terrorists will achieve their goal, which is to destroy our democratic values and principles.

Therefore, our role as parliamentarians is to bring our governments to account and to ensure that counterterrorism policies and measures respect our standards and conventions. We must scrutinise policy proposals and draft legislation against our standards, to ensure that sufficient legal safeguards are put in place.

Thirdly, on the basis of our legal standards, we must further develop our legal arsenal to combat terrorism.

As you are aware, the Council of Europe has developed a solid international binding legal framework to combat terrorism. Our Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism has been signed and ratified by 38 member States of the Council of Europe. This treaty is open for accession by non-member States and I would like to use our today's meeting to appeal

- first of all, to our member States, to ratify this convention if they have not done so already;
- to our observer states and our neighbours – to consider acceding to this convention, so as to enlarge our common legal framework to prevent and combat terrorism.

Recently, our legal arsenal was substantially strengthened by the Additional protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism which deals with the issue of so-called foreign terrorist fighters.

The Additional Protocol is a unique international legally-binding instrument in this field. To date, it has been signed by 29 Council of Europe member States as well as by the European Union. It is open to observer and non-member States which accede to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism.

Since October 2015, the Additional Protocol has been ratified by 5 member States of the Council of Europe. It means that we need only one more ratification for this Protocol to come into force.

Therefore, I urge all of you today to work with your governments and to press for the ratification of this Protocol, so that it can become effective. I shall continue to promote the ratification process in my visits to member States.

Fourthly, I would like to highlight the need to address the root causes that lead to violent extremism, radicalisation and terrorism.

It is clear that terrorism is likely to remain one of the major threats for our democratic societies for years to come. It is therefore essential to deepen the understanding of its root causes and to devise appropriate policy responses to address them.

We must eradicate breeding grounds for terrorism and religious fanaticism, especially through education, social policies and an inclusive society. Concrete measures should be taken to prevent and fight radicalisation, in particular in schools, disadvantaged neighbourhoods, prisons and on the Internet and social media.

Reports and Resolutions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe offer a wealth of concrete examples that you can draw inspiration from.

Inclusion and integration are the key to combat radicalisation leading to terrorism. As direct representatives of citizens, parliamentarians have a special responsibility to work within their communities, promote dialogue, understanding and inclusion.

While reassuring our citizens, we should also denounce the populist discourse and any attempts to use and misuse the security rhetoric to divide our societies further. Populist rhetoric may play in the hands of terrorists. We should not allow this to happen.

Dear colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,

I hope that these four concrete points will help us develop further our discussions today and I am looking forward to hearing the contributions from the parliamentarians so as to explore concrete synergies between our Parliamentary Assemblies as well as between our national parliaments.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Plenary session II: Humanitarian Aspects of Counter-Terrorism Activity

Intervention by Tiny Kox, former rapporteur, Chairperson of the Group of the Unified European Left

Combating terrorism while upholding Council of Europe values and standards: complementary instead of contradictory

May I start by thanking you all for this opportunity to summarise here in St Petersburg the recent activities in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe with regard to the need to combat terrorism, while upholding Council of Europe values and standards.

As a former rapporteur on this issue I closely follow all our Assembly's activities in this respect.

In recent years, international terrorism has claimed huge numbers of innocent victims throughout the world. In its debates, reports and resolutions our Assembly has emphasised the dramatic consequences of terrorist acts and threats on individuals, as well as on our societies.

Beyond the tragedy of innocent people losing their lives, being injured and traumatised, growing unrest, mistrust and fear might destabilise our societies.

Moreover, countermeasures may lead to abuse and disproportionate restrictions on individual freedoms and also mobilise large amounts of public money which cannot be used for other purposes.

These terrorist massacres are directed against the very values of democracy and freedom in general, against the type of society that our pan-European Organisation has aimed at building since the end of the Second World War, and even more since the end of the Cold War.

Our Assembly strongly condemns all acts of terrorism. No arguments can justify them. The Assembly rejects any attempt to find an excuse to terrorist attacks as they go completely against the spirit of the European Convention on Human Rights, and the standards and values enshrined in this fundamental treaty.

Most – but not all - terrorist acts nowadays are perpetrated by so called 'Islamic' groups. However, our Assembly firmly rejects the abuse of the description "Islamic" by terrorist organisations. They do not have any right to claim that they act in the name of Islam, nor that they represent the Muslim community. On the contrary, most of their victims to date are Muslims: they have been, and still are, terrorised, abused, exploited, tortured and massacred by these terrorist groups, whereas their religion is smeared by the abusive use of the term "Islamic" by these very groups.

Accordingly, we have called on Muslim leaders to emphasise that Muslims, as well as believers of other religions, greatly benefit from the protection of their rights and freedoms by the European Convention on Human Rights. For that reason, Muslim communities should fiercely and publicly defend our common values against terrorists who threaten them.

Democracies have the right, and the obligation, to defend themselves when attacked. The fight against terrorism must be conducted in full respect for human rights, the rule of law and the common values. Combating terrorism and protecting our standards and values have to be complementary, not contradictory.

States need to have access to sufficient legal instruments to combat terrorism efficiently. At the same time, there is a risk that counter-terrorism measures may introduce disproportionate restrictions or sap democratic control. As a result, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law may suffer.

In this respect, the Parliamentary Assembly shares the concerns expressed by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights on decisions by France and Turkey to declare a state of emergency and to prolong it. At the forthcoming session of the Assembly in April, we are planning to hold a debate in order to discuss whether Turkey's reactions are in line with its obligations on human rights, rule of law and democracy.

Overall, there is a need to guarantee – in all member States - that combating terrorism and upholding our values and standards have to be complementary and may not become contradictory. Therefore our Assembly has asked the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to closely follow all counterterrorist measures taken by our member States, and to evaluate their necessity and proportionality.

We have called on the parliaments and governments of member States to apply, in their fight against terrorism, some important criteria:

- when adopting and implementing legislation or other administrative measures, a fair balance must be found between defending freedom and security, on the one hand, and avoiding the violation of those very rights, on the other;
- member States should limit a state of emergency to the shortest possible period of time and space;
- law-enforcement bodies should not abuse basic legal requirements and not disproportionately restrict individual freedoms; any restrictions should always be subject to judicial review;
- no ethnic or racial profiling should be allowed with regard to suspects subjected to search, seizure, arrests or other coercive measures;
- effective democratic oversight should be exercised by both the parliament and other independent actors, such as national human rights institutions and civil society;
- appropriate means and training should be granted to law-enforcement bodies and security and intelligence services to cope with the rising threat of terrorism;
- intelligence services should refrain from indiscriminate mass surveillance, which has proven to be inefficient.

We call on Council of Europe member States, and neighbouring countries, to become parties to relevant Council of Europe Conventions, and in particular the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and its new Additional Protocol on foreign fighters.

We also call on them to implement the proposals with respect to the foreign fighters-problem made by my colleague Mr Dirk Van der Maelen, and adopted by the Assembly last year – you will find these proposals in your files.

Furthermore, States should do more to cut off the financial lifelines of international terrorism and arms trafficking, including through the effective implementation of relevant conventions.

As you know, the United Nations adopted in 1999 the Convention on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. In addition, the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism has entered into force since 2008.

However, in spite of this, it has been impossible until now to cut off the financial lifelines of “Islamic State”, which is also known as Daesh, and which remains the richest terrorist organisation ever.

The United Nations have taken many steps to attempt to cut off terrorist organisation’s funding, including Daesh but many member States do not yet comply with their obligations.

As for the Council of Europe, in May 2015 an Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism was open for signature, which also addresses the funding of terrorism.

Unfortunately, quite a number of the Council of Europe member States are still reluctant to commit themselves to relevant legal instruments.

For instance, the Convention on the Financing of Terrorism, updated in 2005 and effective since 2008, has until now not been ratified by Germany, Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Russia.

Furthermore, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, the Czech Republic and Switzerland did not even sign this most important Convention.

Our Assembly will again call upon all these States to increase their efforts to sign and then ratify this convention.

Finally, we must eradicate the breeding grounds for terrorism and religious fanaticism, especially by means of education, social policies and a more inclusive society.

Let us never forget that most terrorists who attack our societies nowadays are not coming from far away but have been home grown! Last week’s attack in London is yet another sad reminder of this fact.

Combating terrorism while upholding our values and standards is the obligation of us all – and the better and inclusive our societies, the lesser the attractiveness of terrorist groups to some of our citizens will be.

May I thank you for your attention.