



Doc. 13819

20 June 2015

Terrorist attacks in Paris: together for a democratic response

Reply to Recommendation¹: Recommendation 2061 (2015)
Committee of Ministers

1. The Committee of Ministers entirely shares the views expressed by the Parliamentary Assembly in its Recommendation 2061 (2015). On 21 January 2015, only two weeks after the terrorist attacks in Paris referred to in the Assembly's recommendation, it took a first series of decisions intended to enhance Council of Europe action against radicalisation leading to terrorism. These decisions resulted in the adoption, at the 125th Session of the Committee of Ministers in Brussels on 19 May 2015, of an Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism. The Committee of Ministers takes this opportunity to thank the Parliamentary Assembly for the opinion on the draft Protocol which it prepared, within a very short timeframe, at its last part-session in April.

2. On 19 May, the Committee of Ministers also adopted a Declaration and an Action Plan on the fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism, which was one of the main items on the agenda of the Ministerial Session. Like the Parliamentary Assembly in its Recommendation 2061 (2015), the Committee of Ministers stated in its Declaration that the terrorist attacks perpetrated in recent months in Europe and elsewhere in the world were unacceptable infringements of the principles of tolerance, freedom of expression and media freedom which underpinned our democratic societies. It strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, and expressed full solidarity with the individuals and communities whose lives had been blighted by these attacks. It expressed its determination to react firmly and for human rights to remain the unquestionable basis for its actions.

3. The aim of the Action Plan adopted to complement the Declaration, which will run until 2017, is to take a series of practical steps to reinforce the legal framework against terrorism and violent extremism and to prevent and fight radicalisation through concrete measures in the public sector, in particular in schools and prisons, and on the Internet.

4. On the subject of the specific requests to it made by the Assembly in its Recommendation 2061 (2015), the Committee of Ministers notes firstly that several of the recommendations made in Resolution 2031 (2015), which it will draw to the attention of member States' governments, are consistent with the recommendations and measures outlined in the Declaration and Action Plan cited above. As to the question of means and resources, subject to future discussions in the Committee of Ministers on the Council of Europe Programme and Budget 2016-2017, funding for the Action Plan will be provided from the Council of Europe's Ordinary Budget, as well as from voluntary contributions from member States, international organisations and partner institutions.

1. Adopted at the 1231st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (17 June 2015).

