



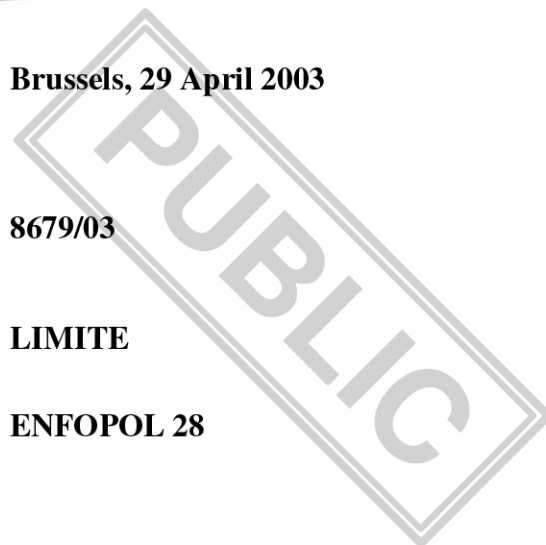
**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 29 April 2003**

**8679/03**

**LIMITE**

**ENFOPOL 28**



**NOTE**

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From : Presidency  
To : Working Party on Terrorism  
Subject : Conclusions of the DIAGORAS Seminar on the fight against international terrorism in relation to major sporting events (Athens, 10-11 April 2003)

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**INTRODUCTION:**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2003, the Greek Ministry of Public Order (State Security Division and International Police Cooperation Division) organized, within the framework of the AGIS programme, an international seminar, co-financed by the European Commission, on “the fight against international terrorism in relation to major sporting events.”

Representatives of the European Commission, of the Secretariat of the EU Council, of EUROPOL, of SECI CENTER, of the EU Member States, of the associated countries and of the candidate states as well as representatives of the USA, Russia, Canada and Israel participated in this seminar.

Officers of the Hellenic Police, representatives of the Ministry of National Defense, of Ministry of Mercantile Marine, of Ministry of Interior and of other co-competent bodies also participated.

Altogether, 95 people participated.

During the seminar, eminent speakers made their suggestions.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. The participants acknowledged that the threat of international terrorism, today also in the form of terrorist networks, is constant. Furthermore, it is influenced by and is directly related to political developments at an international level.
2. It was pointed out that major international sporting events, especially the Olympic Games, could be an occasion for terrorist organizations or individuals to commit terrorist acts and thus promote, through the media, their illegal and criminal objectives.
3. It was highlighted that asymmetric threats, cyber terrorism and use of radioactive – biological – chemical substances are forms of terrorism that could threaten in particular the conduct of major sporting events and especially of the Olympic Games.
4. It was underlined by all participants that they are convinced of the need to closely cooperate as well as coordinate the efforts to confront terrorist threats in relation to major sporting events, especially the Olympic Games.
5. Automating and accelerating, through established channels of communication, the information exchange between the Member States and international organizations is imperative in order to better assess (imminent) dangers in the domain of terrorism as well as to plan preventive strategies and more effective actions.
6. During the crucial time period before and during forthcoming major sporting events the correct and constant assessment of the level of terrorist threats and the information received from the participating countries and international organizations is of vital importance for preventive action and better planning of security measures.
7. Participants underlined the important role of EUROPOL, INTERPOL, the SECI SENTER, as well as of other international organizations as far as information collection and analysis is concerned, as well as the evaluation of terrorist threats. The transmission of this information to the interested host countries is crucial in order to assist in the safe conduct of major sporting events.

8. The contacts among national experts by way of ordinary or extraordinary meetings and also contacts between among Liaison Officers are considered useful instruments in order to ensure and facilitate the cooperation at an operational level in view of the safe conduct of in particular the Olympic Games.
9. The usefulness for the safe conduct of major sporting events of modern technology and in particular of biometric systems was acknowledged, especially at a preventive level.
10. Participants underlined the need to organize more seminars of this kind. The role of the European Commission is in this respect important, given that through programmes like AGIS the EC can assist to the realization of such seminars.
11. A common manual of best practices regarding major athletic events, in particular the Olympic games, should be established in the relevant Council bodies.

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