



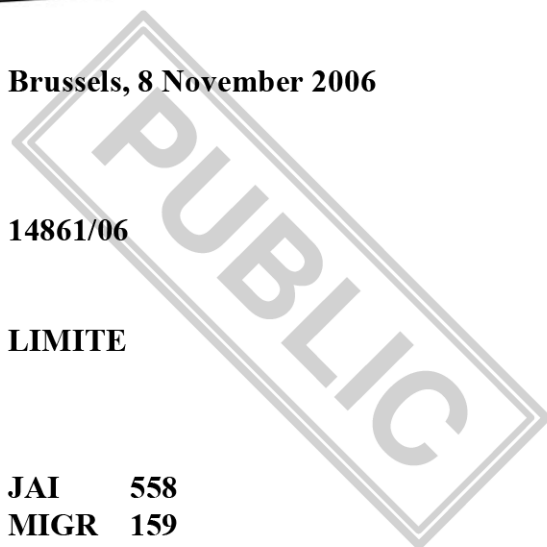
**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from : Presidency

to: Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum

Subject : **Draft Conclusions of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States on integration of young people**

Delegations will find attached a note from the Presidency concerning draft Conclusions of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States on integration of young people.

These draft Conclusions represent a follow-up to the European Conference on the Active Participation of Ethnic Minority Youth in Society held in Copenhagen on 7-8 September 2006 as well as of the Youth Event on 1-3 September 2006, both jointly organised by the Netherlands and Denmark.

Delegations are invited to examine the above draft Conclusions with a view to adopting them in the margins of the JHA Council in December.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES:

Recall the Common Basic Principles (CBP) for immigrant integration policy in the European Union adopted by the Council and the representatives of the Member States on 19 November 2004.

Recognise the importance and interconnection of each of the 11 common principles while specifically referring to

- the principle that integration is a dynamic, two-way process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and residents of Member States,
- the principle that frequent interaction between immigrants and Member State citizens is a fundamental mechanism for integration, as well as the recognition of that participation of immigrants in the democratic process and in the formulation of integration policies and measures, especially at the local level, supports their integration.

Recognise the importance that immigrant integration implies respect for the basic values of the European Union; respect for the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law.

Recall the European Union Strategy and Action Plan for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism adopted in December 2005 which lay down various means for addressing radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism while respecting fundamental rights and the basic values of the European Union.

Recall the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination that supports and supplements the Member States' action to combat all forms of discrimination and encourages concrete measures to combat discrimination and to supplement the activities of the Community and the Member States.

Note that Member States according to the CBPs commit themselves to develop and promote full and active participation of all citizens in their communities and that the Commission is encouraged to consider developing an inter-cultural dialogue into deeper inter-cultural action to learn from each other.

Note the positive outcome of European Conference on the Active Participation of Ethnic Minority Youth in Society held in Copenhagen on 7-8 September 2006 as well as the prior Youth Event on 1-3 September 2006 both jointly organised by the Netherlands and Denmark.

Consider it crucial that all young people across Europe - regardless of their gender, cultural background or vulnerable situation - have equal and real opportunities to participate in, and assume responsibility for, developing democratic societies and thereby contribute to social cohesion, economic welfare and security for all.

Recognise that successful integration and constructive intercultural dialogue are important elements in order to increase understanding of responsibilities and mutual respect, and also recognise the importance for Member States to include in their policies a focus on the understanding of democracy, fundamental human rights, and the basic values of the EU.

Underline the importance of taking account of the European Union Action Plan for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism and that all youth of Europe need to have a sense of belonging to the European Societies, which is created *inter alia* through education and employment, and active participation in society while ensuring equal opportunities.

Highlight the two-way –character of integration, especially by strongly committing to combating racism, discrimination and intolerance and encourage all policy sectors, especially the youth policy, to mainstream anti-radicalisation efforts.

Underline the importance of structured co-operation both in national and European level between the authorities, youth organisations representing immigrant youth and youth researchers in order to find solutions to the questions of integration of minority youth. The Member States and the Commission are encouraged to explore whether it could be relevant to establish a yearly Youth Event for integration in order to further engage and involve the youth in these matters. Encouragement of the immigrant youth to active citizenship should be one of the key elements in the national integration and youth policy strategies.

Emphasize that education and training, employment as a goal, play a major role in the integration of young immigrants and that it is important to examine the underlying reasons why some young people turn away from the society they live in and become vulnerable to processes of radicalisation.

Emphasize that integration of immigrants is an essential part of European Urban Policy and should in this respect be strengthened and also encourage European Cities and Towns to strengthen and further develop their own initiatives. Cities and Towns are urged to continue their successful co-operation on immigrants integration and to pay attention to housing policy and mainstreaming policy at local level in urban areas.
