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Czech Presidency
of the Council of the EU

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du Conseil de l'UE

2009

**Statement
on behalf of the European Union
by**

**Mr. Jan Kubiřta
Legal Adviser
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to the United Nations**

**Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly
resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996
(Measures to eliminate international terrorism)**

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: 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, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia.

Mr. Chairman,

The EU welcomes this session of the Ad hoc Committee as a new opportunity to further our efforts to finalize the comprehensive convention on international terrorism. We wish to praise the Coordinator, Maria Telalian, for her efforts in bridging the remaining gaps between the States' positions, and assure her of the EU's unwavering commitment to concluding the negotiations as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

International terrorism is a plague which requires an international response. The message of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the 2006 United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy reflects our shared goal. The 16 United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and protocols represent further evidence of our joint resolve to prevent and combat terrorism within the confines of international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law. In the view of the EU, these international instruments would be usefully complemented with a general convention on international terrorism which would create additional efficient tools in our joint counter-terrorism struggle.

Mr. Chairman,

The EU continues to support reaching an agreement on the draft comprehensive convention based on the coordinator's proposal of 2005, contained in document A/59/894. The deliberations of this Ad hoc Committee session should focus on the outstanding issue of the scope of application of the Convention, i.e. Article 18. The EU is willing to examine any legally sound and well-founded proposals. We look forward to an exchange of views with other delegations, including with regard to the coordinator's 2007 package proposal.

With regards to the question of convening a high-level conference, the EU continues to believe that this issue should be considered only after agreement on the draft comprehensive convention is reached.

Mr. Chairman,

The EU is ready and looks forward to working with you, the Coordinator, and other colleagues for the sake of a successful and productive session of the Ad hoc Committee.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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