



Civil Protection

Introduction

The EU has developed specific civil protection programmes in the case of a terrorist attack. The following few sections will discuss these programmes:

Pilot Programme to Assist Victims of Terrorist Attacks¹

- This began in 2005 to support projects (undertaken by agencies outside of the EU structures which submit proposals for EU funding strictly on a non-profit basis) "to help the victims of terrorist attacks and/or the relatives to recover."
- It has two main objectives:
 1. To aid victims and relatives of victims by means of social or psychological support.
 2. "To support the financing of projects which raise the awareness of the European public against terrorist threat, so that the traditional fight against terrorism through police and judicial measures can be complemented by public opinion condemning terrorism in all forms."
- Some specific programmes include preparing for the European Day for the Victims of Terrorism, Social Reintegration Programmes, material and legal support, public events which raise awareness against terrorism, and strengthening cooperation among organizations to help the victims of terrorism.

Mechanisms to Facilitate and Support Civil Protection in the Case of an Attack

- A **Civil Protection Form** (established 27 November 2004). This is a form to promote "an in-depth exchange of information, best practices and experience on issues linked to natural and technological risks as well as terrorist attacks."²
- A proposal for a **Rapid Response and Preparedness Instrument** (6 April 2005) for Major Emergencies. This "aims to establish...an instrument which should contribute to the development and implementation of Community civil protection measures, as a contribution to help improving the effectiveness of systems for preparing for and responding to major emergencies." Some actions which are eligible to apply for funds are "studies, surveys, modelling, scenario building and contingency planning, capacity building, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects, communication actions, mobilization actions," and so on. It will apply from 1 January 2007 and come into force after publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.³
- Please see also the section on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) attacks in Briefing Paper 5 on Justice and Home Affairs.

¹ Please note that all information in the following section is taken from or cited from, "Pilot Project for the Victims of Terrorist Acts." *EUROPA*. EU. 21 June 2005.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/victims_terrorism/funding_victims_terrorism_en.htm>.

² *EUROPA*. 27 Nov. 2002. EU. 21 June 2004.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/02/1750&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en#file.tmp_Foot_1>.

³ All information cited in this bullet point is from: *EUROPA*. 6 April 2005. EU. 21 June 2005. <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0113en01.pdf>.

Health Security Committee

- This was proposed and adopted under the Programme of Cooperation on Preparedness and Response to Biological and Chemical Agent Attacks (17 December 2001)
- It is an EU committee made up of **health ministers** who meet regularly to coordinate and assess public health risks in the case of an attack using biological and/or chemical weapons.
- In addition, it should serve as a coordination mechanism to exchange information and provide advice to national public health agencies to be prepared in the case of such an attack.⁴

References

- Pilot Project for the Victims of Terrorist Acts - http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/victims_terrorism/funding_victims_terrorism_en.htm
- Civil Protection Form - <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/civil/forum3.htm> - http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/02/1750&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en#file.tmp_Foot_1
- Rapid Response and Preparedness Unit - http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0113en01.pdf
- EU and Improving the Community Civil Protection Mechanism - http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/civil/pdfdocs/com_2005_137_en.pdf
- Establishment of an EU Health Security Committee - http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_threats/Bioterrorisme/bioterrorism01_en.pdf
- Alvaro Gil-Robles - Opinion on the Draft Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism - [www.coe.int/T/E/Commissioner_H.R/Communication_Unit/CommDH\(2005\)1_E.doc](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Commissioner_H.R/Communication_Unit/CommDH(2005)1_E.doc)
- EU Commission Report - Progress Made in Programme for Preparedness for Possible Emergencies - http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2002/com2002_0302en01.pdf

⁴ *EUROPA*, 17 December 2001. EU. 21 June 2005.
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_threats/Bioterrorisme/bioterrorism01_en.pdf>.