



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 29 April 2002 (06.05)  
(OR. fr)**

**8136/3/02  
REV 3**

**LIMITE**

**JAI 68  
DROIPEN 27**

**OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

---

of : Council

on : 25/26 April 2002

---

Subject : Council conclusions on combating racism, antisemitism and xenophobia

---

## **Council conclusions on combating racism, antisemitism and xenophobia**

Noting that:

- as stated in Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union, the Treaty is based on the principles of freedom, democracy and respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms and respects fundamental rights, as guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and as they result from the Member States' common constitutional traditions, as general principles of Community law,
- the Treaty respects cultural, religious and linguistic diversity as laid down in Article 22 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- violence of a racist and xenophobic nature is a direct and intolerable violation of the principles of freedom, democracy and human rights on which the European Union is founded,
- at a time of acute international tension, especially in the Middle East, it is vital to preserve the spirit of harmony, entente and intercultural respect within our societies,
- to that end, the Member States have already adopted a number of preventive measures, in particular for strengthening the arrangements for watching over and protecting places of worship and social life, in coordination with local authorities and representatives of cultural and religious communities,
- the effectiveness of such national actions should be secured by concerted action at European Union level,

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- It strongly condemns the racist acts perpetrated in various places in the European Union in recent weeks.
- It indicates its wish to step up preventive action and the fight against racist violence and antisemitism. It will continue to make similar efforts against all forms of intolerance, particularly those which would take as their pretext the conflicts and acts of violence in the Middle East and are aimed at persons of the Jewish or Muslim faith or any other faith.
- It advocates closer cooperation between the police forces of the Member States on exchanging experience and factual evidence and action taken or to be taken to combat such intolerable acts. In this connection, full use should be made of the competent bodies of the European Union and of the data collected by those bodies, and the path made clear for use of this information by the Member States.
- National laws on combating racism and xenophobia must be harmonised in compliance with constitutional rules and the principles of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms such as freedom of expression, assembly and association. To that end, the importance of the draft framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia, submitted by the Commission in December 2001 and currently under discussion by the competent Council bodies, should be emphasised.
- The Council reiterates its appreciation of the work of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia and stresses the importance of that body receiving all the comparable information necessary to enable it to produce its annual report on these matters.
- The Council asks the Commission to submit proposals for the organisation of actions to raise public awareness of what is at stake here and of measures to combat discrimination and violence of a racist, antisemitic and xenophobic nature.