



PRESS RELEASE

College of Europe hosts

International Workshop on Terrorism

From Thursday 24 to Friday 25 November 2005 an international workshop on *International Terrorism — A European Answer to a Global Threat* took place at the College's campus in Bruges. The conference was organised by the Department of European Political and Administrative Studies.

The purpose of this workshop was to assess the current threat of terrorism from a European perspective and to analyse the European response to it. During both sessions the definition of terrorism and existing counter-strategies at the EU level were discussed. In a first session on "The EU and the challenge of international terrorism" participants dealt with the definition, consequences and the new character of terrorist activities in recent years. In this context the international dimension of the topic was emphasized and it was asked whether there is a specific European view on this modern challenge. During the second session "The EU Response: External Action and Internal Measures", current responses and the level of cooperation among member states were presented and it was discussed whether the EU applies the adequate means. The question of balancing domestic security and basic freedoms was one of the most intensely discussed issues during the second half of the conference.

A consensus opinion was that Europe is becoming an increasingly coherent and proactive player in the global arena of anti-terrorist measures. It was stated that the European Union is making an effort to give a comprehensive answer to the challenge. Given the interconnectedness of the roots of terrorism and the measures to be taken the EU's genuine strategy will remain a contested object for further discussion.

The workshop was opened by the Rector of the College of Europe, Professor Paul Demaret. The two sessions were chaired by Professor Dieter Mahncke, Director of the Department of European Political and Administrative Studies and Professor Jörg Monar, Marie Curie Professor at the University of Strasbourg.

Participants were both high-level academics and professional experts from Europe, the United States and Asia. The workshop was open for staff and students of the College. The College demonstrated its commitment to make a contribution to the debate on terrorism and to provide a forum of interdisciplinary exchange for academics and practitioners. Given their valuable and original character it was decided to present the debate to a larger audience. This is why the contributions will be published next year in the *College of Europe Studies* which will be jointly co-edited by Prof. Mahncke and Prof. Monar.

For more information, please contact mfriedel@coleurop.be and/or visit:

www.coleurop.be

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