



**The Council's proposed amendment of
the Framework Directive on combating
terrorism:
a new threat for civil liberties**

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The AEDH is deeply concerned following the drive to worsen the effects of the Framework Directive on combating terrorism.

The Council of the European Union has declared its intention to speed up the approval process for its proposal for the Framework Decision amending the Framework Decision dated 2002 on combating terrorism. During a round table held by the European Parliament and national Parliaments in Brussels on 7 April 2007, many MPs and MEPs expressed grave concerns regarding non-compliance with the principles of proportionality and the lack of safeguard clauses in the Decision.

The definition of terrorism given in the current Framework Decision is so vague and broad that it can encompass acts of civil disobedience or simply major political or social conflict.

As such, the Decision is a danger for civil liberties and for the rule of law as its vague definitions endanger due process of law, in a particularly sensitive field, such as liberties.

The proposed amendment is currently aimed at obliging Member States to criminalise public provocation to commit a terrorist offence.

Several EU Member States already have provisions on the issue in their legislation, yet as we are dealing with a field which is directly related to freedom of expression, we can only fear the risks of abuse concealed by the extension of such a directive, the core of which is already a danger in itself.

The AEDH considers this new initiative as an additional dangerous development in the fight against terrorism, which, in no way complying with the principle of proportionality, increasingly tends to hold citizens in its invasive grip and to infringe individual and collective liberties.

The AEDH is asking EU citizens to remind their governments and EU institutions that nothing can justify a restriction of liberties, and MEPs to distance themselves from this amendment and not fall into the trap that this new threat to civil liberties in Europe represents.

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