



SEECP ALBANIAN CHAIRMANSHIP
REGIONAL OWNERSHIP IN ACTION

SEECP JOINT STATEMENT ON TERRORISM

Tirana, February 24, 2015

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the SEECP participants, meeting in Tirana on February 24, 2015, in the presence of the representatives of the Latvian EU Presidency, European Commission, Austria and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

Cognizant that terrorism poses a direct threat to the peace, security and stability in our region, Europe and the rest of the world and pledging to unite our forces to fight against it, as demonstrated most recently by the tragic events in Paris;

Conscious that terrorism constitutes a serious obstacle to the full enjoyment of human rights and freedoms;

Recalling the declarations and resolutions on counter terrorism in the framework of: UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, EU and NATO;

Expressing our heartfelt solidarity and sympathy to the victims of terrorism;

Concerned about the spread of the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and terrorist cells in Europe and elsewhere;

Agreed to:

1. Strongly condemn all acts, methods and practices of terrorism and reaffirm our determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
2. Strongly condemn the horrendous terrorist acts and atrocities committed by ISIL/DAESH and other terrorist organizations, as well as other grave violations of human rights and international law.
3. Emphasize that terrorism has no justification, whatever its motivation or origins, and cannot and should not be associated with any particular nationality, religion or ethnic group.
4. Express our full conviction that common threats and challenges require common responses and actions.

5. Reaffirm our commitment to intensify cooperation in the fight against terrorism and to address the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, through coordinated efforts in all relevant areas.
6. Request RCC to work on the preparation of a regional cooperation platform that would bring together all relevant national, regional and international stakeholders with an aim of developing a common approach on the issue of terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters.
7. Express support to the Global Coalition against terrorism and commit ourselves to strengthening cooperation through all appropriate mechanisms with the European and international partners in order to prevent and counter terrorist acts.
8. Express our grave concern for the escalation of the terrorist threats, in certain parts of Europe's southern neighbourhood, calling for genuine political solutions, addressing the main roots of instability and extremism.
9. Reiterate that the fight against terrorism is a multidimensional issue, not only a matter of national and international security, justice and intelligence; reaffirm our strong will to further enhance regional cooperation for strengthening the rule of law and for implementing policies promoting economic development, youth, education, equal opportunities, equal access to health and the job market.
10. Strongly promote religious tolerance and coexistence as direct contributions to democratization, the protection of human rights, security and stability in our region and the prevention of radicalization and extremist acts.