

Proposal for a TILBURG DECLARATION ON

EU RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF ACTS OF TERRORISM

11 March 2008



We, the Participants,

Having assembled at the Conference on Standards for Victims of Terrorism, organised by the European Forum for Restorative Justice in cooperation with the International Victimology Institute at Tilburg University, the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St Andrews, the Leuven Institute of Criminology at the Catholic University of Leuven and Victim Support the Netherlands on 10 and 11 March to discuss standards for assistance to victims of terrorism in the European Union,



Grateful for the financial support provided to the organisers from the VICT Programme of the European Commission, Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security,

Noting with appreciation interventions made by the Minister of Justice of the Netherlands, Mr E. Hirsch Ballin and a representative of Mr Franco Frattini, Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security,



Also noting with appreciation statements from representatives of the Council of Europe, United Nations (Department for Political Affairs, New York), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Belgian Red Cross, the European Forum for Restorative Justice, Victim Support Europe, and the World Society of Victimology,

Also noting with appreciation interventions made by individual experts and persons directly affected by acts of terrorism,

Declare as follows:

We welcome the work done on the literature study by the European Forum on Restorative Justice, the International Victimology Institute at Tilburg University, the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St Andrews, the Leuven Institute of Criminology at the Catholic University of Leuven and Victim Support the Netherlands.

We also welcome the work done by the said organisations on the draft EU Recommendations for Assistance to Victims of Acts of Terrorism,

We invite the said organisations to finalise the literature study and draft recommendations, taking into account the existing European policies in the field and the results of the deliberations during the Conference, notably during the workshops,

We also invite the said organisations to widely distribute final versions of the literature study and the draft Recommendations including by presenting them to the European Commission,

We call upon the European Commission, National and Non Governmental Organisations, including those representing victims' interests, to take note of the said documents and consider incorporating elements of the draft Recommendations in their own documents and policies where appropriate. We also call upon other European and international organisations to take note of the present initiative.

Tilburg, the Netherlands, 11 March, 2008



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