



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



## **Council conclusions on Kidnap for Ransom**

*FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting  
Luxembourg, 23 June 2014*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The Council strongly condemns the use of kidnapping for ransom by terrorist groups and unequivocally rejects the payment of ransoms and political concessions to terrorists. It expresses its grave concern about the threat posed by kidnapping for ransom by terrorist groups, in particular in West Africa, Yemen and Syria.
2. Kidnapping for ransom is a source of terrorist funding and strengthens their ability to attack our interests. Terrorist groups use the money they secure through kidnapping to strengthen their operational capability, carry out illegal trafficking, recruit new operatives and buy weapons and equipment to launch and plan new attacks. Payments and political concessions to terrorists only incentivise future incidents of kidnapping and increase the risk to our citizens and interests.
3. The Council welcomes the recent adoption of UNSCR 2133 which sets out a political commitment reinforcing previous UN Security Council resolutions, 1373 (2001), 1904 (2009), 1989 (2011), 2083 (2012) which require all UN members to prevent terrorists from benefitting directly or indirectly from the payment of ransoms. It reaffirms the commitment of Member States to uphold these resolutions, in particular the requirement to prevent terrorists designated under the UN Al Qaeda sanctions regime from benefitting from ransom payments, including through the freezing of funds and other assets.
4. The Council fully supports efforts by Member States to prevent kidnapping and to secure the safe release of their hostages without ransom payments, including through working with private sector partners to adopt relevant guidelines. It recognises the need to support those affected by incidents of kidnapping for ransom, and to give careful consideration to protecting the lives of hostages. The Council emphasises the role of CSDP missions and EU agencies in building the capacity, expertise and human rights compliance of law enforcement authorities in third countries, which can be used to prevent kidnappings. The Council also supports capacity-building initiatives to help states prevent and prepare to respond to future terrorist kidnaps, and to combat money laundering and terrorist financing networks, for example through tracking financial flows, as part of wider counter-terrorism programmes."

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