

ROUNDTABLE ON “ECONOMIC TERRORISM”

11-12 July 2005, Lausanne

Definition and interest of this topic

The objective of this roundtable is to focus on global terrorist threats with potentially high-level impact in the field of economy, which could be described as “economic terrorism”. This has nothing to do with the “economic consequences of terrorism”, which embody a topic that has already been covered extensively by experts.

What is “economic terrorism” and why should it be addressed? Contrary to “economic warfare” which is undertaken by states against other states, “economic terrorism” would be undertaken by transnational or non-state actors. This could entail varied, coordinated and sophisticated or massive destabilizing actions in order to disrupt the economic and financial stability of a state, a group of states or a society (such as market oriented western societies) for ideological or religious motives.

These actions, if undertaken, may be violent or not. They could have either immediate effects or carry psychological effects which in turn have economic consequences.

Massive threats against infrastructures have already been addressed, as have threats against populations (CBRN). Conversely, potential massive actions against economic systems have not yet been given the attention they deserve.

Considering the possibility of such actions, even if there is no immediate danger, is a necessity in our post 9/11 world where we constantly must re-evaluate the way we address these issues and “think the unthinkable”. A new generation of terrorists is in the making, undoubtedly more sophisticated. If left unexamined, these types of actions could have catastrophic and dramatic effects.

This roundtable is a first attempt to try to grasp this problem in the most comprehensive way possible and it should be taken as such. The methodology used is tentative. The conclusions reached will be preliminary. Additional work and meetings will most likely be required.

PROGRAMME

Sunday 10 July

18:30-19:30 **Welcome drink** *(All participants welcome)* Lobby

19:30 **Moderators' dinner** Salle de jeux

Monday 11 July

09:00-09:30 **I. Introduction** Salle Richemont

II. To what extent is “economic terrorism” a real threat?

09:30-10:45 **1. What testimonies, proofs, and examples are available?**

10:45-11:15 **Coffee break** Terrasse/Salle Richemont

11:15-12:30 **2. Is “economic terrorism” possible?** *(To what extent are global economies resilient? Is economic warfare a possible source of inspiration for terrorists? What are the material conditions necessary to launch attacks of such a magnitude? Do transnational terrorist groups have the potential to carry them out? If not, could they acquire it? Wouldn't they need the support of a state?)*

12:30-14:00 **Lunch** Terrasse Richemont/ Delamuraz

III. Some possible systemic vulnerabilities

14:00-16:00 **1. A sectoral approach: to what extent are transnational companies vulnerable?**

a. **Computer systems:**

b. **Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals:**

c. Food production, food and water distribution

16:00-16:30 **Coffee break**

Terrasse/Salle Richemont

16:30-17:45 **2. A sectoral approach: to what extent are banking systems, financial institutions and markets vulnerable?**

a. Sub-panel 1: Banking Systems and Financial Institutions

19:00-20 :00 **Cocktail**

Terrasse Richemont/ La Rotonde

20:00 **Dinner**

Terrasse Richemont/ Olympique

Tuesday 12 July

08:15-09:30 **b. Sub-panel 2: Financial and Commodity Markets**

09:30-10:00 **Coffee Break**

Terrasse/ Salle Richemont

10:00-11:15 **3. A sectoral approach: to what extent are international logistics and trade vulnerable?**

- Energy, Transports
- Electricity grids
- Oil transportation
- Supply chain systems

IV. “Economic Terrorism” and policy-making. (*Is “Economic Terrorism” on the political agenda? What are the possible long-term strategic responses? What practical measures or mechanisms exist or can be imagined at the national and international levels to counter this threat? What “business models” do we have for a public-private partnership?*)

11:15-12:45 **a. Sub-panel 1 What strategic and contingency plans?**

12:45-14:15 **Lunch**

Terrasse Richemont/ Delamuraz



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14:15-15:30 **b. Sub-panel 2 What Public-Private partnership?**

15:30-16:00 **Coffee Break**

Terrasse/ Salle Richemont

16:00-17:30 **V. Conclusions and Policy Recommendations**

17:30-17:50 **Concluding words:**

17:50-18:00 Chairman's envoi