Fight against Terrorism

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> **Terrorism threatens our security, the values of our democratic societies and the rights and freedoms of European citizens.**
>
> EU CONSILIUM

EU fighting terrorism

★ The EU is very active in counter-terrorism related issues since terrorism continues to pose significant threats across Europe

★ In 2017 alone, there were 205 failed, foiled or completed terrorist attacks, resulting in 1219 people being arrested for terrorist offences within the geographical area of the EU

EU fighting terrorism

★ The EU adopted a comprehensive approach to tackle the issues of foreign fighters and home-grown terrorism

Types of terrorist threats

- ★ Jihadist
- ★ Right-wing
- ★ Left-wing
- ★ Ethno-nationalism
- ★ Cyber
- ★ Single issue

Jihadist terrorism

★Terrorist acts that are committed out of a mind-set that rejects democracy on religious grounds and uses the historical comparison with the crusades of the Middle Ages to describe current situations, in which it is believed that Sunni Islam is facing a crusader alliance composed of Shi'is, Christians and Jews

Right-wing terrorism

★ Terrorist violence by right-wing groups, such as neo-nazi, neo-fascist and ultra-nationalist formations, which see themselves in a supreme position having the natural right to rule over the rest of the population

★ Characterized by racist behaviour, authoritarianism, xenophobia and hostility to immigration

Left-wing and anarchist terrorism

★ Left-wing terrorist groups seek to replace the entire political, social and economic system of a state by introducing a communist or socialist structure and a classless society

★ Sub-category of left-wing extremism is anarchist terrorism which promotes a revolutionary, anti-capitalist and anti-authoritarian agenda

Ethno-nationalism and separatist terrorism

★ Ethno-nationalist and separatist groups are motivated by nationalism, ethnicity and/or religion and seek to carve out a state for themselves from a larger country, or annex a territory from one country to that of another

★ Examples: Irish Republican Army (IRA), Basque ETA, Kurdish PKK

Cyber terrorism

★ While terrorist groups use the internet to reach their followers and spread their message, their capability to launch attacks via the internet appears to remain extremely limited

★ Darknet activity includes fundraising campaigns and use of illicit markets

★ Propaganda on mainstream social media

Single issue terrorism

★ Single-issue extremist groups aim to change a specific policy or practice, as opposed to replacing the whole political, social, and economic system in a society

★ Usually concerned with animal rights, environmental protection, anti-abortion campaigns, etc.

★ Example: Animal Liberation Front (ALF)

EU fighting terrorism

Recent actions in the fight against terrorism include:

★ strengthened rules to prevent new forms of terrorism

★ reinforced checks at external borders

★ enhanced firearms controls

★ creating a dedicated body to curb terrorist propaganda online

EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy

EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy

★ EU's counter-terrorism responses are framed around the **EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy 2005**, adopted by the European Council

└▶ commits the EU to combating terrorism globally, while respecting human rights and allowing its citizens to live in an area of freedom, security and justice

EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy

★ EU's counter-terrorism strategy is build on 4 pillars:

1. **PREVENT**
2. **PROTECT**
3. **PURSUE**
4. **RESPOND**

EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy

1. **PREVENT** people from turning to terrorism and stop future generations of terrorists from emerging

2. **PROTECT** citizens and critical infrastructure by reducing vulnerabilities against attacks

EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy

3. **PURSUE** and investigate terrorists, impede planning, travel and communications, cut off access to funding and materials and bring terrorists to justice

4. **RESPOND** in a coordinated way by preparing for the management and minimization of the consequences of a terrorist attack, improving capacities to deal with the aftermath and taking into account the needs of victims

EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy

★ Strategy is subjected to regular review

★ Council adopted an **EU strategy for combating radicalization and recruitment to terrorism** as part of the 'prevent' pillar in 2008

EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy

★ Revision in 2014 in response to the challenge of foreign fighters travelling to Syria and Iraq, which pose a major security threat to the EU and its Member States, resulting in the adoption of the **EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism** of 2014

EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy

★ Augmented by further instruments, such as the **Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA**, amended in 2008, which provides a common definition of terrorist and terrorist-linked offences to facilitate international cooperation, particularly between EU Member States in the absence of a universally agreed definition

EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy

★ **Directive (EU) 2017/541 on combating terrorism**

  ★ replaced the 2002 Framework and strengthened the legal framework of the EU to prevent terrorist attacks and address the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters

  ★ criminalizes travel within, outside or to the EU for terrorist purposes, such as to join the activities of a terrorist group or with the purpose of committing a terrorist attack

  ★ complements the current legislation on the rights of victims of terrorism

EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy

★ **Directive (EU) 2015/849 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing**

   ★ established common rules on the prevention of the use of the financial system of the EU for the purposes of money-laundering or terrorist financing

EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy

★ Following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, the EU established a **list of persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts and subject to restrictive measures**

EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator

★EU has **Counter-Terrorism Coordinator** since 2004 who is in charge of:

  ★coordinating the work of the Council of the EU in the field of counter-terrorism

  ★monitoring the implementation of the EU counter-terrorism strategy

  ★ensuring that the EU plays an active role in the fight against terrorism

Passenger name record data

★ On 21 April 2016 the Council adopted a directive to harmonise the use of passenger name record (PNR) data in the EU

★ The directive establishes that PNR data can only be used for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime

Prevention of terrorist attacks

★ For example, a **Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Action Plan** has been developed which focuses on

   ★ preventing unauthorized access

   ★ having the capacity to detect such dangerous materials

   ★ being able to prepare and respond efficiently to any incidents

EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report

EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report

★ To fight terrorism, it is essential to have optimal information exchange and accurate data

★ **EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT)** was created in 2007 so that the EP and all national governments and police forces have an overview of the European situation on an annual basis

Trends in the 2018 report

★ In recent years there has been an increase in the frequency of jihadist attacks, but a decrease in the sophistication of their preparation and execution

★ Jihadist attacks, however, cause more deaths and casualties than any other terrorist attacks

Trends in the 2018 report

★ Recent attacks by jihadist terrorists have followed three patterns:

(1) indiscriminate killings (London, March and June 2017; and Barcelona, August 2017)

(2) attacks on symbols of Western lifestyle (Manchester, May 2017)

(3) attacks on symbols of authority (Paris, February, June and August 2017)

Trends in the 2018 report

★ Jihadist attacks are committed primarily by homegrown terrorists, radicalised in their country of residence without having travelled to join a terrorist group abroad

★ Recent attacks prove jihadist terrorists' preference for attacking people rather than other targets

Trends in the 2018 report

★ Jihadist terrorists may operate in groups, but have often found to be lone actors

★ They may have friends and relatives in their environment who know of, sympathise with, facilitate or even assist in the preparation of an attack

Trends in the 2018 report

★ The number of individuals travelling to the conflict zones to join jihadist terrorist groups as foreign terrorist fighters has dropped significantly since 2015

★ Online propaganda and networking via social media are still essential to terrorist attempts to reach out to EU audiences for recruitment, radicalisation and fundraising

Europol counter-terrorism activities

Europol activities in counter-terrorism

★ **European Counter Terrorism Centre**

▶ central hub in the EU where counter terrorism operational information from law enforcement from all EU Member States, but also from third parties, is brought together for analytical purposes

★ **Europol Information System (EIS)**

▶ through this system, Member States directly share and retrieve information, including on suspects, means of communication, financial accounts and firearms, etc. connected with serious and organised crime and terrorism

Europol activities in counter-terrorism

★ **Counter terrorism analysis work file**

> ► provides the framework for operational analytical support with the Member States and non-EU partners and provides broader data than the EIS

★ **Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA)**

> ► allows counter terrorism authorities from different countries to directly exchange information among themselves, with optional involvement of Europol

Europol activities in counter-terrorism

★ **Internet Referral Unit (IRU)**

 ► counter online radicalisation and recruitment by terrorists, by providing a core internet investigation support capability and increasing partnerships towards online service companies (to promote self-regulation activities)

★ **Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (TFTP)**

 ► used to track terrorist money flows, allowing authorities to identify and locate operatives and their financiers, and to uncover terrorist cells

Europol activities in counter-terrorism

★ **Counter Terrorism Joint Liaison Team (CT JLT)**

► work more closely on cross-border investigations, consisting of counter terrorism experts and analysts from the Member States and Europol counter terrorism experts and analysts

★ **European Cybercrime Centre (ECC)**

► delivers high-level technical, analytical and digital forensic expertise to support investigations by EU Member States and non-EU countries in cases of convergence of cyber and terrorism

EU Security Cooperations

EU Security Cooperations

★ The EU currently has 16 civilian and military missions and operations around the world, from providing training to the armed forces, to fighting trafficking and smuggling networks in the Mediterranean Sea

EU Security Cooperations

★ Recently the EU launched the **Permanent Structured Cooperation - PESCO** on security and defence, enabling EU Member States to jointly develop defence capabilities that can be made available for EU operations

EU-Asian Security Cooperation

★ The EU will strengthen cooperation on security in Asia and with Asian partners, in view of the importance of the region to global stability and security

★ Priority areas are maritime security, cyber security, counter terrorism, CSDP and peacekeeping operations, hybrid threats, conflict prevention and the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons

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