

Press seminar

Terrorism: the EU's response

26-27 January 2016, Brussels

Purpose

The European Parliament's Press Service is holding a seminar to provide members of the media and institutional representatives the opportunity to look at the EU's response to terrorism. Parliament is starting to discuss new proposals to criminalise travel for terrorist purposes and terrorist financing, to ban certain weapons and restrict the sale of firearms on the black market.

Its role in the European Agenda for Security will be highlighted during the seminar's discussions, particularly in connection with the proposals on a directive to combat terrorism, a firearms directive, a new data protection directive, and a directive on a high common level of network information security, amongst others.

Inside

This leaflet provides extracts from relevant supporting analyses prepared by Parliament's policy departments for the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Development, Civil Liberties, and Industry, and the subcommittees on Security and Human Rights. Scan the QR code or click on the title of the publication title to access it.



Publications

[Will CSDP enjoy collateral gains from France's invocation of the EU's mutual defence clause?](#) - December 2015

Following the terrorist attacks of 13 November 2015 in Paris, the mutual defence clause of the Treaty of Lisbon was invoked for the first time by an EU Member State. This note explains the functioning of this article and defines it as a reactive, intergovernmental instrument, obliging other Member States to aid the one attacked. It also suggests possible consequences to its use, including the fact that it will affect the ongoing CSDP debate, particularly in relation to EU preparedness and capabilities. The role of the European Parliament is also looked at.



[The Lisbon Treaty's provisions on CFSP/CSDP State of implementation](#) - October 2015

Since the Treaty of Lisbon entered into force in December 2009, major efforts have been made to implement the new institutional set-up it created. This paper explains how, amongst others, the EU has acquired legal personality, the post of Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has been created, and the European External Action Service has been operationalised. It also looks at how the European Parliament has acquired a greater role, especially in the fields of foreign policy oversight and budgetary scrutiny.



[The law enforcement challenges of cybercrime: are we really playing catch-up?](#) - October 2015



With a number of high-profile criminal cases, such as 'Silk Road', cybercrime has been very much in the spotlight in recent years, both in Europe and elsewhere. While this study shows that cybercrime poses significant challenges for law enforcement, it also argues that the key cybercrime concern for law enforcement is legal rather than technical and technological. The study further underlines that the European Parliament is largely excluded from policy development in the field of cybercrime, impeding public scrutiny and accountability.



[Cybersecurity in the European Union and beyond: exploring threats and policy responses](#) - October 2015



The European Commission published the European Union Cyber Security Strategy along with the accompanying proposal for a Network and Information Security (NIS) Directive in 2013. This study sets out to develop a better understanding of the main cybersecurity threats and existing cybersecurity capabilities in the European Union and the United States. The study further examines transnational cooperation and explores perceptions of the effectiveness of the EU response, pinpointing remaining challenges and suggesting avenues for improvement.



[Supporting European security and defence with existing EU measures and procedures](#) - October 2015



Focusing on the support of non-CSDP policies for CSDP measures, this study suggests that the Common Security and Development Policy cannot effectively contribute to EU external action by itself, but only in coherence with other EU policies and instruments. It focuses on nine different areas: European Neighbourhood Policy, development cooperation, internal policies and financing instruments in the context of the EU's international crisis management, innovation policies, industrial policies, regional policy, trade policy and space policy within the EU's defence policy.



[Towards a new European security strategy? Changes in the global security environment](#) - June 2015



As work on a new European security strategy begins, this paper examines the impact of changes in the security environment of Europe. It argues in favour of an ambitious new security strategy which, twelve years after the adoption of the 2003 European Security Strategy, is most needed. It presents an assessment of the changes in the institutional and political architecture of the EU in the post-Lisbon context and emphasises the multiple tools the EU is using to develop its security policy. Recommendations for the process and the substance of the future strategy are also given.



[Inter-agency cooperation and future architecture of the EU criminal justice and law enforcement area](#) - November 2014



Several EU agencies and bodies coexist within the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. This study aims to analyse the current relationship and foreseeable cooperation between them: Europol, Eurojust, the European Anti-Fraud Office, the European Judicial Network and the future European Public Prosecutor's Office. The study reflects on their cooperation regarding the fight against serious transnational crime and the protection of the European Union's financial interests. It also identifies good practices and difficulties and suggests possible improvements.



[Preventing and countering youth radicalisation in the EU](#) - April 2014



Several EU actions plans, communications, strategies have been adopted at the EU level in the last decade to tackle the underpinning factors and rationales that lead certain people, in certain circumstances, to be recruited and get involved in extreme forms of violence. This study focuses on the question of how best to prevent youth radicalisation in the EU. It evaluates counter-radicalisation policies, both in terms of their efficiency and their broader social and political impact. In this light, it brings some of the shortcomings of current policies to the forefront.



[Evaluation of EU measures to combat terrorist financing](#) - April 2014



This paper evaluates the EU's measures to combat terrorist financing and their societal and political impact, emphasising that more critical scrutiny is necessary. It looks in particular at the Third Directive on anti-money laundering and combatting terrorist financing, the EU-US Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme and the European Terrorist Finance Tracking System. It identifies a number of weaknesses in these instruments and proposes a number of initiatives and recommendations to contribute to future debates and improve future initiatives.



[Data and security breaches and cyber-security strategies](#) - September 2013



This note provides an overview of the definition of security incidents and breaches and analyses their scale and trends. EU-level efforts at addressing network and information security are summarised, together with some of the provisions of the Commission's 2013 proposals for a Network and Information Security Directive - which contain a number of measures to strengthen EU efforts in tackling cyber security. The note also identifies some potentially major concerns and offers recommendations, including the need for transparency in the cyber security policy framework.



[The implications of EU anti-terrorism legislation on post-conflict political processes](#) - July 2013



The effects of EU anti-terrorism legislation are ambivalent. Banning whole organisations hardly provides an incentive for behavioural change but may strengthen extremism and belligerence. In territories with limited statehood the effects of blacklisting can disrupt essential social and humanitarian services which the organisations offer. This paper looks at the nature of contemporary armed conflicts and the role of armed non-state actors (power contenders), dilemmas of non-discrimination between terrorists and power contenders, and the effectiveness of blacklisting.



[Algeria's underused potential in security cooperation in the Sahel region](#) - June 2013



Algeria is a regional power in economic, political and military terms. Up to now, relations between the EU and Algeria have been mainly based on economic considerations. Given its strong military power and political stature in the region, Algeria has the potential of developing into an important ally of the EU in the Sahel region. This paper looks at how the probable transfer of presidential powers in Algeria will offer a chance for the country to reshape its policy in the region as an assertive and constructive regional power - not only in the Maghreb but also in West Africa.



[The involvement of Salafism/Wahhabism in the support and supply of arms to rebel groups](#) - June 2013



The war in Afghanistan was a key moment in the emergence of armed rebellion in the Muslim world. Its impact went quickly beyond the borders of Afghanistan to extend to Pakistan. Since then, the Iraq war, the civil war that engulfed Syria and the armed conflict in the Sahel have helped to increase guerrillas in the Muslim world. This study is built around the original historical and geopolitical contexts of Salafism/Wahhabism jihad. Divided into four geopolitical zones, it analyses the role of the Salafi/Wahhabi networks in financing and arming rebel groups.



[Human rights implications of the usage of drones and unmanned robots in warfare](#) - May 2013



The use of drones and other unmanned robots in warfare and other situations of violence have increased exponentially. This study provides an overview of the current and likely future use of such systems and examines the relevant legal implications under human rights law, international humanitarian law and the UN Charter. It concludes that the present sense of uncertainty regarding the applicable legal standards, the rapid development and proliferation of drone and robotic technology have the potential of destabilising the international security environment as a whole.



[Europe's crime-terror nexus: links between terrorist and organised crime groups in the EU](#) - October 2012



The study presents a qualitative analysis of the links between organised crime (OC) and terrorism, with specific reference to the EU. A conceptual basis of these links is outlined and used to identify how these two phenomena come together. The study also considers developments regarding the relationship between OC and terrorism in regions outside the EU as these have an impact on its evolution in the Member States. It points out that the effective fight against OC and terrorism depends on an integrated approach that involves all stakeholders at national and EU levels.



[A coherent EU strategy for the Sahel](#) - May 2012



Instability in the Sahel region, Europe's southern geopolitical border, can eventually find its way into the European neighbourhood. This study examines the challenges affecting the region and offers an evaluation of the 2011 EU Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel. The strategy identifies the lack of governmental capacity and systemic poverty as the key challenges the region faces and points to concerted action in the security and development domains as the way forward. One year after its adoption, the EU's Sahel strategy has not lived up to expectations.



[Current challenges regarding the respect of human rights in the fight against terrorism](#) - April 2010



This paper assesses progress on the key external policy issues raised and recommendations made by the European Parliament resolution on the transfer and illegal detention of prisoners, three years after its adoption. The author acknowledges that human rights standards have become more seriously integrated both into UN and EU work on counter-terrorism, although there remains a need for further standard-setting on certain issues, including accountability of intelligence services. The system of terrorist lists also continues to pose serious problems of human rights protection.



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Policy Departments

There are five policy departments within the European Parliament's DGs for Internal Policies and for External Policies. They are responsible for providing both in-house and external high-level independent expertise, analysis and policy advice at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies (delegations, President, Bureau, Secretary-General). Their expertise covers all areas of activity of the European Parliament. They are closely involved in the work of the committees, which they support in shaping legislation on and exercising democratic scrutiny over EU policies. Policy departments deliver policy analysis in a wide variety of formats, ranging from studies and in-depth analyses to briefings and the Fact Sheets on the EU. This written output serves a variety of purposes by feeding directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serving as a briefing for delegations of members.

Policy departments also organise events, including workshops and expert panels, which enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current political issues.
www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses



Fact Sheets on the EU

The Fact Sheets provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament's contribution to that process. They cover six main themes: the EU's functioning; a citizens' Europe; the internal market; the economic and monetary union; sectoral policies; and external relations. The online version, available in 23 languages, is updated regularly.
www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets

