

**Communication delivering on the European Agenda on Security to fight
against terrorism and pave the way towards an effective and genuine Security
Union**

(COM (2016) 230 final)

Final Document

In Joint session, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and Internal Affairs and the Committee on Justice of Italy's Chamber of Deputies,

Having examined, pursuant to parliamentary Rule of Procedure no. 127, the Communication "delivering on the European Agenda on Security to fight against terrorism and pave the way towards an effective and genuine Security Union," COM(2016) 230 final,

Whereas:

- One of the purposes of the European Area of Freedom, Security and Justice is to create conditions of systematic cooperation between European institutions and individual Member States in order to guarantee a high degree of security for European citizens, reinforce prevention and control measures to thwart transnational crime and terrorism, and intensify the co-ordination and cooperation of police forces, courts and other competent authorities.
- The European Agenda on Security marks a significant step forward because it maps out an internal security strategy for the EU in which particular attention is devoted to the problems of terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime, which constitute the primary threats facing Europe.
- The great strength of the Security Agenda is that it takes a systematic approach to terrorism. To address the several different facets of the terrorism issue, the Agenda envisages a wide span of actions, such as

reinforcing monitoring tools, expanding multi-level cooperation and amending the regulatory framework;

- As acknowledged in the new Global Strategy, which the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy presented at the European Council of 28 June 2016, the European Union's role as a bedrock of security needs to be fortified, and the fact that its external and internal security are tightly enmeshed needs to be acknowledged. Indeed, a sizeable portion of the threats impending upon European countries derive from, or are fuelled by, situations of instability and crisis in places outside the EU;

Considering that:

The frequency and severity of the terrorist attacks within the confines of the EU are a source of mounting concern, also because Member States that act individually are in want of adequate means to take action and countermeasures;

The demand for security that citizens are making of their national and European institutions needs to be met with a robust response lest the EU give the impression of inertia in the face of an extremely serious problem;

The increasingly marked transnational character of terrorist acts, (particularly those perpetrated by radical Islamists, who systematically use the internet to recruit affiliates in different countries) obliges the EU as a whole to expand its monitoring, prevention and counter-terrorism activities, which it can best achieve through increased information-sharing and deeper cooperation between the national authorities on the one hand and EU agencies on the other;

A cause for particular alarm is the burgeoning presence of "foreign fighters," namely terrorists returning to their countries of origin who, having gained military experience in foreign theatres of war, have the potential to carry out new attacks. The most credible estimates refer to 25-30 thousand foreign fighters, of whom around five thousand come from EU countries, notably France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Belgium.

Mindful that the present final document needs to be forwarded without delay to the European Commission as part of the political dialogue, as well as to the European Parliament and the Council;

EXPRESSES A FAVOURABLE OPINION

with the following remarks:

- a) All the political and legislative initiatives set forth or declared in the action timetable annexed to this Communication should be put into prompt and precise effect in order to make the most of the benefits that will accrue from terrorism prevention, monitoring and control activities and information-sharing, as well as from the progressive harmonising of the pertinent national laws. The only effective path to countering terrorism is through a combination of measures;
- b) In the interest of reinforcing the legal framework of the EU, the following legislative proposals must be swiftly adopted and implemented as pertaining to matters of the utmost priority:
 - The revision of Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons so as to improve the marking and traceability of firearms;
 - The revision of the Fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive both so as to counter new methods of terrorist financing and so as to increase transactional transparency;
- c) No time should be lost in taking every measure that leads to the implementation of the Anti-terrorism Directive (approved by the European Parliament and the EU Council), which identifies new categories of crime, such as, specifically, travelling or training for terrorist purposes;
- d) For the sake of a more efficient and effective monitoring of “foreign fighters”, the instruments for controlling cross-border movements in both directions need to be reinforced through the implementation of the PNR Directive (adopted by the Council last April), which requires

airline companies to grant national authorities access to “passenger number records” (PNR) containing data such as the passenger’s name, the date and route of travel, the number of bags and the payment method used. For information-sharing to be efficient and effective, a national Passenger Information Unit (PIU) that processes incoming data urgently needs to be set up and activated;

- e) New EU-wide security instruments and policies need to be made fully operational as soon as possible. They include: the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), which provides for preliminary checks to be made of third-country nationals exempted from visa requirements who are entering the Schengen area; the Entry-Exit System (EES), which automates border controls and facilitates the detection of counterfeit and false identities; and the Schengen Borders Code, the revised version of which tightens controls;
- f) In the interest of tracking the movements of terrorists, the common risk indicators developed by the European Commission in June 2015 need to be revised to enable the building of a unified database of foreign terrorist fighters;
- g) Without prejudice to the primacy of Member States’ authority in matters of public order and internal security, there is a need for information-sharing systems and methodologies that can best be met by: making full use of Europol’s system for the exchange of information among different countries’ law enforcement bodies; operating through Eurojust to resolve questions of jurisdiction and court authority; and directly linking the Counter-Terrorism Group (CTG) to the European Counter-Terrorism Centre set up within Europol;
- h) As regards prevention and de-radicalisation:
 - 1) More needs to be done to ensure the constant monitoring of online content, which serves both to recruit and to raise funds

before, during and after each terrorist attack. Europe must promote multilateral initiatives between states and enter into agreements with internet providers to halt the spread of terrorist propaganda and unlawful content inciting hate and violence;

- 2) Education and awareness-raising among the young are indispensable instruments for the prevention of terrorism, which is why it is necessary to promote an inclusive style of education that is based on shared EU values and on intercultural understanding. Similarly, funding is needed for the design of programmes of social reintegration and de-radicalisation, held both inside and outside prisons, which can be used both for the development of risk-assessment tools and for the training of prison staff;
- i) Finally, more budget resources than the incomplete sum of EUR 3.8 billion that is currently included in the Internal Security Fund for the period 2014-2020 need to be allocated to translating the EU's expanded undertakings in this area into actual practice.