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**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS
(CDPC)**

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON TERRORISM
(CODEXTER)**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**REPORT ON THE LINKAGES BETWEEN
TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME**

Document prepared by the CDPC Secretariat
Directorate General I – Human Rights and Rule of Law

CDPC website: www.coe.int/cdpc
CODEXTER website : www.coe.int/terrorism

1. Background information

The intersection of criminal networks and terrorist organizations is one of the priority subjects to be dealt with by CODEXTER during the biennial period of 2016 – 2017. The examination by the CODEXTER of this subject is foreseen for the 31st Plenary Meeting of the Committee (November 2016).

The growing convergence of organised crime and terror groups is a global trend threatening the security interests of many States worldwide. The phenomenon is not new. Indeed, it is an established fact that organised crime groups and terrorist groups often operate in similar ways, carrying out the same types of criminal activities and sharing organisational characteristics. Commonalities concern the transnational character; the financing through the commission of criminal/illegal activities; and, the ability to install fear.

In 2014, the CODEXTER and the CDPC, in close cooperation with the University of Malaga and the City of Malaga, organised an international conference on terrorism and organised crime. The Malaga Conference was the first international event to highlight the nexus between terrorists and organised crime.

The example of Daesh, has clearly demonstrated how a terror organisation can effectively finance a large part of its operations through criminal activities not directly related to terrorism. Another important aspect of the threat posed by the convergence of terror groups and organised crime groups is the ability of terror groups to get access to relatively advanced weapons or materials (including possibly nuclear material) for the construction of explosive devices through organised crime channels.

The Council of Europe is in the process of preparing an expert study/report of the links between terrorism and transnational organised crime, mapping the phenomenon in order to provide member States with an overview of the scale of this threat in a European context.

It should be noted that the UNODC is planning to undertake a global study of the links between terrorism and organised crime and has indicated its strong interest in coordinating its work with the Council of Europe on this issue.

2. The drafting of a report and provisional timing

Two academics will be responsible of the drafting of study/report focused on mapping out the links between transnational organised crime and terrorism, the implication of terrorist groups in organised crime, and making a series of proposals to improve practical and legal cooperation to deal with the convergence of terrorism and transnational organised crime. This report will provide member States with an overview of the dimensions of this threat and with a catalogue of possible future actions in the field of standard-setting relevant to this topic.

A preliminary draft report will be ready by the end of 2016 and will serve as the basis for both Committees' deliberations (CODEXTER and CDPC) on this topic at their plenary meetings as a follow-up to the aforesaid Malaga Conference and with a view to providing guidance for the academic experts preparing the report with regard to the focus and content of the study. The CODEXTER will organise its 31st Plenary Meeting of the Committee on 16-17 November 2016,

while the CDPC will organise its 71st Plenary Session in December 2016. On the basis of the comments received by the members of both committees, the report will be completed.

The final joint report is expected to be finalised in April 2017 for its discussion at both plenary meetings in the spring session.

An official presentation will take place after the summer break in the framework of a follow-up conference on terrorism and organised crime.

