THEMATIC SESSION ON TERRORISM AND THE INTERNET

14 November 2018

Strasbourg (France)

Palais de l'Europe (Room 9)

PROGRAMME

English version

This one-day Thematic Session on Terrorism and the Internet will take place on 14 November 2018, at the *Palais de l'Europe* (Room 9) in Strasbourg.

The Council of Europe aims at promoting the full inclusion of key stakeholders in their respective roles, in countering terrorism online. With this in mind, this Thematic Session seeks to bring together experts and practitioners from the 47 member States of the Council of Europe as well as representatives from internet and telecommunications technology firms and associations, social media platforms and different search engines to share information, exchange their views and discuss public and private best practices in preventing and combating terrorist-related offences and radicalisation leading to terrorism on the internet.

Other stakeholders actively involved in the field of counter-terrorism online will also participate, namely the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (also known as Europol), which together with the European Commission will contribute with valuable insight and extensive experience to the sharing of best practices.

This multi-stakeholder approach intends to enable fruitful discussions and presentations from an operational as well as from a policy point of view on how all actors involved in countering terrorism online deal with this fast-moving threat, how to pursue better partnerships and co-operative mechanisms and how to improve the already established ones. This regional, multi-level and inclusive set-up is taking place thanks to the determination and experience of the Council of Europe which makes it possible to bring together a wide range of representatives from both the private and public sector.

The different sessions in which this event has been divided will address the three main topics of interaction between State authorities and internet companies when countering terrorist-related offences and radicalisation leading to terrorism on the internet, the removal of terrorist content as well as possible counter-narratives to terrorism. These topics have been chosen for being the most conducive to cross-sectoral cooperation in this field.

With this Thematic Session, the Council of Europe aims to achieve strategic targets, including:

i.   The enhancement of the co-operation amongst the 47 member States of the Council of Europe and internet and telecommunications technology firms and associations, social media platforms and different search engines with a view to addressing common goals when combating terrorism and radicalisation leading to terrorism on the internet;

ii. The discussion on how to possibly expand the national and regional counter-terrorism policies to the Council of Europe's geographical and political space;

iii. The exchange of views and considerations on the need to establish general terms of use for clients (better identification of what clearly constitutes terrorist propaganda and/or other unlawful content);

iv.   The discussion of a proposal for the future designation of national contact points in every member State and a liaison person for each internet company and association who would act as the first point of contact and co-ordinate support and collaboration with the Council of Europe;

v.   The elaboration of final remarks for possible future action of the Council of Europe on co-operative mechanisms in countering terrorism online (based on the proposals submitted by the participants of the Thematic Session).

09:30 - 09:45   *Opening of the Thematic Session and welcome address*

Mr Jan Kleijssen, Director of Information Society and Action against Crime of the Council of Europe.

Welcome, introduction and purpose of the day.

09:45 - 10:00   **Introductory remarks**

Ambassador Gábor Horváth, (Hungary) Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, representative of the Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT).

10:00 - 11:30   **SESSION I: Countering terrorist propaganda, terrorist training and recruitment through the internet: where does the interaction between State authorities, institutions and internet companies stand in 2018?**

Moderator/Chair: Ambassador Corina Călugăru, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova.

Speakers:

- Mr Ian James Bowden, Specialist at the EU Internet Referral Unit (EU IRU), Counter-terrorism Centre (Europol).
- Mr Marco Pancini, Google Director Public Policy and Government Affairs.
- Mr Holger Sperlich, Government Director at the Division on Cyber Capabilities of the Security Authorities, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Mr Daniel Holznagel, Legal Officer at the German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection (national experts of Germany).
- Mr Kristian Stanley, Head of European Prevent Programming, UK Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (national expert of United Kingdom).
- Mr Timur Abregov, Senior Prosecutor, Prosecutor General´s Office (national expert of the Russian Federation).
- Mr Maximilian Schubert, Vice-President of EuroISPA (European Internet Services Providers Association).

11:30 - 12:00   *Tea/Coffee break*

12:00 - 13:00   **SESSION II: Counter-Narratives to terrorism.**

Moderator/Chair: Mr Liam Byrne, member of Parliament (MP), United Kingdom.

Speakers:

- Mr Adam Hadley, Director of «Tech Against Terrorism».
- Mr Raffi Gregorian, Director of the Office of Multilateral Affairs of the Bureau for Counterterrorism in the U.S Department of State (national expert of U.S.A).

- Mr Eirik Trønnes Hansen, Prosecutor at National Criminal Investigation Service (NCIS) (national expert of Norway).
- Mr Patrik Hiselius, Senior Advisor, Digital Rights from Telia Company representing European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association (ETNO).

13:00 - 14:30 *Lunch break*

14:30 - 16:00 **SESSION III: Removal of terrorist content: past, present and future prospects.**

Moderator/Chair: Ambassador Emil Ruffer, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic.

Speakers:

- Mr Javier Castillejos Alsina, Policy Officer, Terrorism and radicalisation Unit, DG HOME, European Commission.
- Ms Adina Braha-Honciuc, Government Affairs Manager at Microsoft.
- Mr Javier Allo Flores, Director of Intelligence, Investigation and Fraud Prevention of Telefónica.
- Ms Judith Lichtenberg, Executive Director of Global Network Initiative (GNI).
- Ms Maud Sacquet, Public Policy, Senior Manager at Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA).

16:00 - 16:15 *Tea/Coffee break*

16:15 - 16:45 **Final remarks and future perspectives**

- Ambassador Corina Călugăru, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova.
- Ambassador Emil Ruffer, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic.
- Mr Liam Byrne, member of Parliament (MP), United Kingdom.
- Mr Mario Janecek, Chair of the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Committee.

16:45 **Close of the Thematic Session / Closing words**

Mr Jan Kleijssen, Director of Information Society and Action against Crime of the Council of Europe.

17:00 **Reception**

Introductory remarks

Background and purpose:

During this introduction, Mr Gábor Horváth, representative of the Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT), will present the Council of Europe's line of action in combating this fast-moving and increasingly complex threat. One of the issues that will be addressed will be the recently adopted Council of Europe's Counter-Terrorism Strategy which places particular emphasis on preventing and countering terrorist public provocation, propaganda, radicalisation, recruitment and training on the internet via computer systems and networks.

Mr Gábor Horváth will also highlight the importance and the continuous efforts that the Council of Europe is carrying out to promote the co-operation with member States, the internet industry, technical and academic communities and other key stakeholders in the area of counter-terrorism online. All efforts need to be harmonious within the above-mentioned stakeholders, for the main common goal of total elimination of any kind of terrorist-related offences and radicalisation leading to terrorism on the internet to be achieved.

Session I

Countering terrorist propaganda, terrorist training and recruitment through the internet: where does the interaction between State authorities, institutions and internet companies stand in 2018?

Background and purpose:

Nowadays both internet companies and member States of the Council of Europe have an essential role to play when preventing and combating terrorism-related offences online. While the primary responsibility is incumbent upon States, internet and telecommunications technology firms provide and control relevant aspects of the infrastructure and functionality vulnerable to be misused by terrorists and violent extremists. Therefore, there is a need to pursue partnerships and co-operative mechanisms with and between government entities, institutions and private sector internet companies with a view to facilitating and addressing common goals to combat terrorism and radicalisation leading to terrorism on the internet and strengthen dialogue between them.

As the Council of Europe aims at facilitating interaction, co-operation and dialogue between public and private stakeholders, the objective of this session is to sit internet companies side-by-side with national authorities in order to present an overview of their current partnerships and co-operative mechanisms and launch a serious debate on how to pursue a better collaboration between the parties while maintaining the promotion of a shared commitment. During this session, national experts will also participate to present their perspective on how their legislation tackles this threat.

Guiding questions/key issues for discussion:

Countering terrorist propaganda and recruitment through the internet: actors involved.

What needs to be/is being done at both private and national level to fight the spread of online terrorism?

What can be expected from the public-private tandem? Does collaboration exist when shaping online counter-terrorism policies?

What is the value of this partnership?

How this synergy counters radicalisation, extremism and terrorism on the internet? How can such measures stop would-be terrorists from radicalisation/engaging in terrorist groups?

Collaboration between State authorities and internet companies: what further and on-going measures are needed? Are the legal instruments to counter terrorism online efficient and available?

Agenda

Objective of the session (10 min)

Moderator/Chair: Ambassador Corina Călugăru, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova.

The moderator will guide the presentations and discussions of the different speakers in order to create an open and constructive debate.

Speakers/experts input (max 10 min each)

- Mr Ian James Bowden, Specialist at the EU Internet Referral Unit (EU IRU), Counter-terrorism Centre (Europol).
- Mr Marco Pancini, Google Director Public Policy and Government Affairs.
- Mr Holger Sperlich, Government Director at the Division on Cyber Capabilities of the Security Authorities, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Mr Daniel Holznagel, Legal Officer at the German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection (national experts of Germany).
- Mr Kristian Stanley, Head of European Prevent Programming, UK Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (national expert of United Kingdom).
- Mr Timur Abregov, Senior Prosecutor, Prosecutor General´s Office (national expert of the Russian Federation).
- Mr Maximilian Schubert, Vice-President of EuroISPA (European Internet Services Providers Association).

Discussion of guiding questions and formulation of responses and recommendations (20 min)

Session II

Counter-Narratives to terrorism.

Background and purpose:

Terrorism is fundamentally communication. The radicalisation process is changing as terrorism evolves and as technology advances. The Internet has transformed the way that terrorist organisations reach and radicalise people, with terrorist narratives, easily accessible to a large global audience through the use of expansive communication strategies. To challenge and contradict the themes intrinsic to the terrorist narrative, national authorities and other stakeholders have developed counter-narrative strategies. However, they have been criticised as being too far removed from those whom they are targeting. Therefore, the solution would be to empower stakeholders to increase the volume of effective proactive positive alternative narratives on the internet. These would be aimed at specific targeted audiences, which confront, challenge and contradict the themes intrinsic to the terrorist narrative through ideology, logic, fact or humour.

The Session will bring together states, international organisations and private sector companies to explore ways and propose concrete measures to develop, where possible, counter-narrative content.

Guiding questions/key issues for discussion:

Is there still a limited understanding about what makes an effective counter-narrative campaign?

Initiatives to counter terrorist narratives at supranational, international or national levels.

What is the actual experience from member States in developing counter-narratives to terrorism?

Can social media platforms and search engines post counter-narratives without undermining their terms of operation and principles?

How to ensure a human rights-compatible approach.

How to find the right balance: fighting terrorism and countering radicalisation – while guaranteeing freedom of expression and access to information, including the protection of personal data.

Agenda

Objective of the session (10 min)

Moderator/Chair: Mr Liam Byrne, member of Parliament (MP), United Kingdom.

Mr Liam Byrne will present the report on Counter-Narratives to Terrorism of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Speakers/experts input (max 10 min each)

- Mr Adam Hadley, Director of «Tech Against Terrorism».
- Mr Raffi Gregorian, Director of the Office of Multilateral Affairs of the Bureau for Counterterrorism in the U.S Department of State (national expert of U.S.A).
- Mr Eirik Trønnes Hansen, Prosecutor at National Criminal Investigation Service (NCIS) (national expert of Norway).
- Mr Patrik Hiselius, Senior Advisor, Digital Rights from Telia Company representing European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association (ETNO).

Discussion of guiding questions and formulation of responses and recommendations (20 min)

Session III

Removal of terrorist content: past, present and future prospects.

Background and purpose:

Social media platforms, online content hosts, messaging services and internet communication platforms are being misused by terrorists and violent extremists to promote via messages and/or posts hate speech, propaganda, radicalisation and the recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters. In this context, continuous efforts and carefully targeted actions are indispensable. Therefore, the aim of this session is to explore the full range of measures that are being used at private and public level to remove this kind of terrorist and extremist content from the internet. Special attention will be paid to the future impact of the recent proposal by the European Commission for a Regulation on preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online. Following this reasoning, the session will advance ways to identify terrorist material on the internet and how internet service providers can be informed with a view to removing the illegal content.

Guiding questions/key issues for discussion:

The role of technology companies — such as web-hosting platforms, communication applications, and social media platforms — in sharing the content.

New tactics and new technologies for limiting the availability of terrorist content online.

Identifying extremists before they pose a threat online.

Are social media platforms and search engines failing to remove terrorist content?

Pubic operational capabilities to remove terrorist content.

How does the new procedure for removing terrorist content work?

Why legislation is needed to tackle terrorist content online?

How to safeguard against the risk of erroneous removal of legal content?

Objective of the session (10 min)

Moderator/Chair: Ambassador Emil Ruffer, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic.

Speakers/experts input (max 10 min each)

- Mr Javier Castillejos Alsina, Policy Officer, Terrorism and radicalisation Unit, DG HOME, European Commission.
- Ms Adina Braha-Honciuc, Government Affairs Manager at Microsoft.
- Mr Javier Allo Flores, Director of Intelligence, Investigation and Fraud Prevention of Telefónica.
- Ms Judith Lichtenberg, Executive Director of Global Network Iniciative (GNI).
- Ms Maud Sacquet, Public Policy, Senior Manager at Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA).

Discussion of guiding questions and formulation of responses and recommendations (20 min)

Final remarks and future perspectives

Background and purpose:

The idea is to provide a summary with the main conclusions/outcomes of the three different sessions. Therefore, the three moderators of the Sessions will present the key recommendations resulting from their respective panels. At the end, Mr Mario Janecek will provide a general overview/synopsis of the whole Thematic Session together with the future perspectives on counter terrorism online devised by the participants of this Thematic Session.

Agenda

Speakers/experts input

Final remarks

- Ambassador Corina Călugăru, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova.
- Ambassador Emil Ruffer, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic.
- Mr Liam Byrne, member of Parliament (MP), United Kingdom.

General conclusion and future perspectives

- Mr Mario Janecek, Chair of the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Committee.

Close of the Thematic Session / Closing words

Mr Jan Kleijssen, Director of Information Society and Action against Crime of the Council of Europe will close the Thematic Session. As the use of the internet for terrorists' purposes is a global threat that needs a global response, this Thematic Session represents another step towards the needed elaboration of further co-operative mechanisms. Therefore, the Council of Europe will express its gratitude to the participants and the involved stakeholders for their invaluable contribution in this exchange of views and best practices in preventing and combatting terrorist related offences and violent extremism on the internet.