



**Recommendation by „European Citizens’ Initiative Stop Extremism“, given to
Working Group 8, Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2017,
September 15, 2017**

The „European Citizens’ Initiative Stop Extremism“ drafted a EU-Directive that has led the European Commission to a comprehensive anti-extremism-package of measures at the legal level which would allow an effective and joint action by all member states against tendencies that are based on hate speech, intolerance and lead to extremism and terror.

Intolerance, hate speech are not threats that only the EU has to deal with, it is a phenomenon active in all OSCE member states.

In this Directive, „Stop Extremism“ is demanding a European anti-extremism directive, which covers for the following:

1. A definition of extremism based on the EU Fundament Rights Charter
2. A warning list of extremist organizations and individuals
3. Improved intelligence exchange between security agencies
4. A European Single Market seal (“extremism-free”)
5. Changes in employment law (simplified giving of notice to extremists)
6. (Simplified) compensation against extremists
7. Extended Imprint & Disclosure of Foreign Financing
8. Fines.

In its Ministerial Declaration of the OSCE Member States, the organization made a clear statement in fighting extremistic tendencies, based on intolerance, xenophobia, hate crimes.

The declaration states the following:

- *Reaffirming the commitment of participating States to work together to prevent, suppress, investigate and prosecute terrorism-related acts, including their financing, and stressing their strong determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as a crime that has no justification, whatever its motivation or origin, and that terrorism and violent extremism cannot and should not be associated with any race, ethnicity, nationality or religion*
- *Strongly condemning manifestations of intolerance, including on the basis of religion or belief, reaffirming the will of participating States to foster tolerance and non-discrimination, mutual respect and understanding in their societies, and reaffirming our commitment to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief*

The declaration calls upon the OSCE states:

1. *To further increase their efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism in their countries, following a multi-dimensional approach, and in this regard to make use, as appropriate and where necessary, of the OSCE executive structures, including field operations within their respective mandates*
2. *To strengthen their efforts to counter and suppress the financing of terrorism*
3. *To consider, as appropriate, developing and updating national counter-terrorism strategies and action plans, including specific policies and measures to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism*
4. *To foster a comprehensive approach at all levels in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including co-ordination among national authorities, co-operation among participating States, and co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations*
5. *To encourage political leaders and public figures, including civil society and religious leaders to contribute to preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, by speaking out strongly and promptly against violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism*
6. *To further promote public-private partnerships in countering terrorism, where appropriate, among public authorities, the private sector, civil society, members of, or representatives of religious communities, and the media*

7. *To invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to actively engage with us to strengthen our dialogue and co-operation in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, respecting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in this context, preventing and countering manifestations of intolerance and discrimination, including on the basis of religion or belief, xenophobia, violence*
8. *To develop, where appropriate, national counter-terrorism strategies and action plans, including policies and measures to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism*
9. *To assist participating States in developing practical activities, in partnership with civil society and the private sector as appropriate, to support the elaboration of policies, approaches, and strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism*
10. *To address negative socio-economic factors in the context of preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization*

As the above mentioned findings by the OSCE Ministerial Conference are in full compliance with the proposed „European Citizens’ Initiative Stop Extremism“ Directive, registered by the European Commission on June 7, 2017, we are asking the responsible institutions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to discuss the following recommendations.

Recommendations:

- 1) The protection of the fundamental rights and fundamental freedoms, guaranteed in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('Charter') is the cornerstone of the European Union. Adhering to minimum ethical standards is considered an important reason for the economic success of western democracies. Violent extremism hinders and prevents sustainable development and jeopardizes development and prosperity, that has been achieved in recent decades. An essential prerequisite for the functioning of economic relations is the protection of expectations, thus an important precondition for an effective internal market.
- 2) A public perception and awareness regarding the vital role of fundamental rights and the fundamental freedoms should be raised. At the same time, it ought to be ensured that persons and institutions, supplying extremism, should be excluded from benefits, granted by public resources of the OSCE member states and should further give a transparent description of their source of financing.
- 3) These recommendations should contribute to the completion of an area of freedom, security and justice to the OSCE region, to the economic and social progress, to the strengthening and integration of the national economies within the OSCE area as well as to the wellbeing of its citizens.
- 4) These recommendations do not cover violent extremism, but its preparations, meaning the support of extremism, which does not necessarily need to lead to violent extremism, but due to its negative effects on the world of work and education, may lead to negative effects on the functioning of the internal market especially in the future.
- 5) To avoid any kind of extremism, effective monitoring under rule of law should be provided before terrorist acts or acts of serious crime could be committed. Such means of effective monitoring under rule of law, may be with an increasing intensity of intervention: dialogue, systematic observation, uncovering of activity, official requirements limiting the activity and finally the interdiction of the activity. Programs for strengthening the fundamental rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the implementation of a quality label to document adherence to the fundamental rights and fundamental freedoms make up the starting point of dialogue.
- 6) These recommendations respect all fundamental rights, freedoms and principles, that are recognized by the Charter, such as in particular: the respect for private and family life, home and communications, the protection of personal data, the freedom of

thought, conscience and religion, the freedom of expression and information, the freedom to conduct a business, the right to an effective remedy and to a fair trial, as well as cultural, religious and linguistic diversity.

- 7) For purposes of these recommendations, it should be clarified, that any form of support of supporters of extremism is also regarded support of extremism. In any case, the financing of the support of extremism is regarded a support of extremism.
- 8) The support of extremism has particularly negative effects in the context of employment, as it causes uncertainty on the part of employers and employees and intimidates or damages them. Furthermore, the support of extremism hinders an open and thus innovative working climate, due to its proximity to violence, its actual application of violence or its often discriminatory nature.
- 9) The particular danger of supporting extremism is characterized by its hostility to knowledge. Especially if children and partners have their right to education infringed by supporters of extremism, the negative especially economically negative effects appear many years later and in the worst case even in the next generations. As the threat of unemployment declines with an increasing level of education and as the economic development becomes increasingly dependent on the outcomes and products of the knowledge society, compensation claims against supporters of extremism have to be facilitated, if their support of extremism was the reason for not completing education or for not being employed.

Therefore, the „European Citizens’ Initiative Stop Extremism“ recommends the following actions for the responsible OSCE Institutions:

1. Every Member State appoints one or more national contact points for a cross-border defence of negative effects of extremisms for the internal market and informs the Commission about names and contact details of those contact points. The Commission and the Member States publish that information. The national contact points facilitate the exchange of information according to this Directive and closely work together with each other and the Commission, especially regarding Article 20.
2. The Member States take the necessary actions to ensure that supporters of extremism, registered in a warning list are provided neither with subsidies nor capital transfers from public resources and are not allowed to hold a public position within the OSCE structures.

3. Each Member State shall take the necessary measures to ensure that supporters of extremism are not financed by OSCE funds for the purpose of making decisions, that could have impacts on a big number of persons, like for example in legislation or related areas or could have long term and intensive impacts on just several persons, like for example in the area of education.
4. Each Member State shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the entities obliged to provide publication details allow for a simple notification of supporters of extremism by linking to the competent authority as well as the Radicalisation Awareness Network.
5. The OSCE Secretariat has to keep a warning list, in which supporters of extremism as well as entities obliged to provide publication details.
6. The OSCE institutions will cooperate closely with the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council regarding the information exchange in the fight against extremism.

The European Citizens' Initiative Stop Extremism asks the following institutions to debate our recommendations:

1. Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
2. Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
3. General Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
4. Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights