

EU Working Party on Terrorism – COTER

Remarks – Mr. Thomas Wuchte, OSCE Head on Anti-Terrorism Issues

25 February 2013

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for me to have been invited to address the Working Party on Terrorism. I take it as sign of interest in what the OSCE does and also – might it sound too ambitious – in what areas can the EU and the OSCE join their efforts in the fight against terrorism. I would also thank the Irish EU Presidency (who was also our 2012 OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office (CiO)) and our EU-colleagues in Brussels and Vienna for promoting that this meeting, and hopefully a useful exchange of views could take part here and now.

For those of you who do not know me, I joined the OSCE Secretariat's Transnational Threats Department about a year ago as Head on Anti-Terrorism Issues.

I look forward to initiating genuine collaboration with you and want to note the strong support from our primary EU contacts in the Vienna EU Delegation.

A first overarching message is that our new Transnational Threats (TNT) Department, directed by Mr. Alexey Lyzhenkov, puts its highest priority on developing close partnerships with the rest of the international community. The TNT Department's development was discussed throughout the 2011 Lithuania OSCE CiO's leadership.

My remarks today will specifically focus on the OSCE's contribution to enhancing security and argue that both of the strategic commitments of our organisations and the pillars supporting our strategies are so identical that there can be no argument against closer collaboration, mutually reinforcing each other's efforts. Not to exploit the similarities in our comprehensive programmatic work would be a waste of resources and be highly counterproductive.

Strategic Documents Guiding the OSCE's Action against Terrorism

The OSCE was among the very first multilateral organizations to articulate explicitly the need for sustained, multi-faceted efforts to combat terrorism, with a strong emphasis on prevention, while respecting and protecting human rights. The impetus was given first with the adoption of the OSCE's **Bucharest Plan for Combating Terrorism**, followed by the OSCE Porto **Charter for Combating and Preventing Terrorism**.

Building on this Plan and Charter, as well as on a series of decisions, commitments and mandates adopted over the past ten years, the OSCE participating States adopted last

December in Dublin the **OSCE Consolidated Framework For The Fight Against Terrorism**. This Framework underlines that “terrorism remains one of the most significant threats to peace, security and stability, as well as to the enjoyment of human rights and social and economic development, in the OSCE area and beyond”.

This document is an important milestone for the Organization and a recognition that the OSCE has contributed considerably to the efforts of the international community to counter terrorism while upholding the rule of law and international human rights standards.

The Consolidated Framework reiterates in particular the relevance and full applicability of the OSCE’s trademark concept of comprehensive and co-operative security with regard to the fight against terrorism. But – it is visionary to turn words into action, and to turn action into partnership.

The OSCE **multi-dimensional approach** underlines that alongside politico-military aspects of security, the protection and promotion of human rights as well as economic development and environmental sustainability are inextricable parts of security and stability.

It also underlines that **multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration** are required on all levels in order to meet modern security threats and challenges -- across borders, but also within countries among state authorities and with non-governmental actors.

The Consolidated Framework also underscores the basic premise that has always guided our action, namely that terrorism must be fought firmly as one of the most serious crimes that can be in no way justified and can be in no way identified with any religion or belief, culture, ethnic group, nationality or race.

OSCE Participating States have undertaken, as a cornerstone of the OSCE’s approach to countering terrorism, to fully comply with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law.

Strategic Areas for Enhancing Co-operation and Building State Capacity

I would like to now give you more details on how the OSCE contributes more directly to preventing and countering terrorism. The Consolidated Framework highlights a number of strategic focus areas for the OSCE’s action against terrorism. These key areas include and are (as many already know) 95% extra-budgetary-funded:

- Promoting the implementation of the international legal framework and co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism;
- Countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
- Countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes;
- Promoting dialogue and co-operation in countering terrorism in particular public-private partnerships – or PPPs – i.e., Civil Society;
- Strengthening travel document security;
- Suppressing the financing of terrorism;
- Supporting national efforts to implement UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

- Promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of counter-terrorism measures.

Promoting the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms is mainstreamed throughout all these efforts as an overarching imperative, along with a gender balance.

In addition to the strategic focus areas, the OSCE has also been providing capacity-building assistance to its participating States -- and is expected to continue to do so -- in a number of other areas including:

- Improving the security of international transportation, especially container and supply chain security;
- Enhancing critical energy infrastructure protection against terrorist attacks;
- Preventing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;
- Promoting solidarity with victims of terrorism;

Guiding Principles for the Delivery of OSCE Anti-Terrorism Efforts

The Consolidated Framework contains guidelines highlighting the need to further co-ordinate our efforts internally and to co-operate externally with relevant stakeholders to counter terrorism.

- **Regarding Internal Co-ordination:**

The OSCE Secretariat ensures the facilitation and co-ordination of all OSCE activities related to counter-terrorism across the different dimensions as well as between the different structures of the organization.

Our Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) acts as the focal point of co-ordination in this area. Its three units which are the Action against Terrorism Unit, the Strategic Police Matters Unit and the Borders Unit independently or jointly contribute to preventing and countering terrorism.

- **Regarding External Co-operation:**

As I stated in the beginning, the OSCE pays a particular attention to co-operation with other stakeholders. We want to help implement existing international instruments to counter terrorism, instead of inventing our own, while being innovative and creative on specific issues.

On the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security (1999), we co-ordinate closely with the United Nations, in particular with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED). We also have a continued collaboration with the Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), based on successive Joint Action Plans. We work closely with regional and sub-regional partners, including the EU, the Council of Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), CIS-ATC, RATS-SCO, UNRCCA, INTERPOL and WCO. Of course, it is to us a very valuable example that both UNODC and OSCE are here today – we value this partnership.

The OSCE Secretariat, and in particular the **TNTD/ATU**, serves as primary interface in this regard.

We are always looking forward to initiating or further developing collaboration with present or future partners. This means helping each other raise the bar of standards and not pointing fingers.

- **National ownership**

The OSCE also proactively co-operates with State authorities, the private sector, civil society, and the media to foster commitment, local ownership, partnership and sustainability in the fight against terrorism.

Current Efforts in Countering Terrorism

With the following couple of slides on a number of on-going OSCE projects I would like to illustrate that the efforts of the two organisations are going in the same direction and how it is a partnership that can be supporting each other.

I believe that the key to European security lies not only in better co-operation among EU member States but also with other international and regional organisations active beyond the borders of the European Union.

Both of our organisations put special emphasis on prevention as one of the pillars of our counter-terrorism efforts. We are aware that the challenge is complex therefore the response should be comprehensive. I would add, also co-operative and collaborative.

- **In the field of countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT)**, our current efforts are three-fold. First, we organize targeted expert roundtables jointly with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), bringing together state authorities, academia and civil society organizations to discuss human rights compliant issues such as preventing women terrorist radicalization, and the role of women and youth in countering VERLT. Now, we seek smaller training efforts.

Second, we are developing jointly with ODIHR and the Strategic Police Matters Unit a guidebook for senior police professionals and community based organizations and leaders on community policing approaches to prevent terrorism and counter VERLT. The guidebook will then serve as basis for trainings for both police and civil society. There is an obvious synergy here with the EU CoPPRa project led by Belgium. The CoPPRa Project Manager has collaborated with us in a number of instances and is involved in the peer-review process of the guidebook to ensure complementarity of efforts.

Third, we seek to develop a more systematic engagement with interested OSCE participating States. As a first step we started last year a series of 12 national seminars to promote a multi-dimensional understanding of VERLT, dialogue between state authorities and civil society organizations, and collaborative, comprehensive human rights-based responses. Since 2010 our Office in Tajikistan has been implementing the OSCE's first VERLT programme in the field, and we are now discussing with Kyrgyzstan and Bosnia and Herzegovina about similar programmatic engagement. Specifically, Bosnia and Herzegovina has officially requested OSCE assistance in elaborating and implementing a national action plan to counter VERLT and we are consulting on how best to respond to this request.

I believe our work in the field of countering VERLT coincides with and reinforces many objectives outlined by the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism. EU projects and initiatives are of high interest to us – they can enrich and multiply the toolboxes of other regional organisations which seek to enhance the capacity of non EU Member States, some of which aspire to join the EU.

There are for instance a good number of issues addressed by the Radicalization Awareness Network which the OSCE is also actively pursuing. Our experts follow closely the work of the RAN working groups and we very much appreciate being involved.

- **In the field of strengthening travel document security**, one of our long-standing and most developed programs that has inspired similar efforts by other organizations, we offer a range of services with regard to handling and issuance of travel documents, rolling out electronic passports and the use of biometric features, promoting the ICAO PKD (Public Key Directory), connecting Border Crossing Points to **INTERPOL** databases, and detecting forged travel documents.

Our activities include expert workshops, training seminars, two-week intensive hands-on trainings, country visits, and technical assistance projects with the provision of equipment. We are now placing an increasing focus on comprehensive identity management assistance and its broader benefits in terms of good governance and more reliable voter registration.

Related to preventing the movement of terrorists, I should also highlight that the OSCE is equipped since 2009 with a Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, which delivers targeted courses and training seminars to senior management of border security agencies from our 57 participating States and our Partners for Co-operation, including Afghanistan.

The area of Travel Document Security could greatly benefit from co-ordination and when possible co-operation with the EU in the planning and the implementing of activities especially in countries where the OSCE has a Field Presence.

An example of such co-ordination efforts could be foreseen with FRONTEX which organizes for instance trainings for EU member States on forged documents detection. The OSCE has been very active in this aspect providing 18 such trainings from 2007 in a number of non-EU countries. Co-ordinating our efforts would result in greater efficiency and prevent possibilities of duplications in forged document detection but also in other similar activities undertaken by both the EU and the OSCE.

- **In the field of protecting non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure** we are developing a project on compilation of a Good Practices Guide on protecting non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure from attacks particularly on cyber-related infrastructure. EU experts of **DG for Energy** and the **EEAS** participate actively in the implementation of the project as well as in consideration on the follow-up of this endeavour.
- **In the field of strengthening a rule-of-law based criminal justice response to terrorism**, we are pursuing our successful collaboration with **UNODC** to ensure effective national implementation of the universal anti-terrorism instruments. We are

launching this year for instance a series of national expert workshops on effective implementation of the international terrorist bombings convention.

We plan to organize a Regional Expert Workshop on ‘Enhancing Counter-Terrorism Co-operation in the Mediterranean Basin While Implementing the Universal Legal Instruments against Terrorism’.

The Strategic Police Matters Unit of the TNT Department is currently developing with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights a practical training module for law enforcement officers on human rights in counterterrorism investigations. This training builds on ODIHR’s existing manual and training for law-enforcement on countering terrorism – protecting human rights.

- **In the field of countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes** we recently concluded a series of online fora to allow national and international experts to share information and human rights compliant policies and initiatives to address such issues as the use of the Internet as tactical facilitator by terrorists; terrorist use of social networking tools, including by right wing extremists; and institutionalizing public-private partnerships to combat terrorist use of the Internet.

We have also supported the UNODC in developing its *Technical Assistance Tool on the Use of the Internet for Terrorist purposes*, and we are exploring with them how to co-operate to deliver tailored capacity-building based on this new tool.

I should also note that the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media works actively on issues of Internet governance and pluralism, promoting full compliance with OSCE press freedom commitments.

Co-operation with Europol in the implementation of the Check the Web programme can be another point where the EU and the OSCE could add value and raise effectiveness of their efforts in countering terrorism.

- **In the field of suppressing terrorist financing**, the OSCE advises on improving legal frameworks, establishing and strengthening financial intelligence units, developing partnerships with reporting entities from the private sector. We work closely with a range of international partners, in particular UNODC, the IMF, the World Bank, the Council of Europe and the Eurasian Group as well as OECD.

Most recently, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) developed a “Handbook on data collection in support of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing: National Risk Assessments”. We are also launching with them (OCEEA) a project to raise awareness of non-profit organizations on how they can protect themselves from abuse by terrorists. We are sure again, that the experience Europol has gained through its Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (TFTP) could contribute to the prevention, protection and pursuance of financing of terrorism.

- **In the field of non-proliferation**, the OSCE Secretariat together with the UN 1540 Committee and other partners has been since 2010 assisting ten of its participating States with the development of national action plans and strategies to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540. The EU Centers of Excellence closely mirror this type of activity.

Conclusion

In **conclusion**, I would like to say that our efforts are driven by the conviction that regional and sub-regional organizations are instrumental as force multipliers and delivery mechanisms for counter-terrorism assistance. If you find this a valuable brief, I believe we should do it roughly this time every year as the OSCE presents its work program in February each year.

The OSCE strives to make a tangible contribution to the security of people by drawing on our comparative advantages, namely a comprehensive and co-operative approach to security, a unique geographical reach and multi-dimensional expertise, to offer innovative, reliable and collaborative result-oriented assistance.

Through the examples on the slides I tried not only to give an account of our activities but also to identify the points where and in what could our programmes and projects interact. Europe's security in many ways depends on the regions adjacent to the EU, where the OSCE has a very well developed network of its field operations in countries in the Balkans, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. These OSCE offices can play an important, supportive role in the implementation of our strategic goals in countering terrorism.

Finding the way and means of reinforcing each other's efforts, adding capacities and expertise will make security stronger, cheaper and more sustainable.

I look forward to hearing your views on how we can better collaborate to enhance efforts to counter terrorism. Thank you!!