



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

EU Working Party on Terrorism (COTER)

“Continued OSCE Collaboration with the European Union”

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

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank the COTER Chair, Mr Gavriilidis and the Greek EU Presidency for inviting me to the EU Working Party on Terrorism to share with you the latest update of OSCE activities in countering terrorism and to present my remarks about our collaboration with the EU.

I would also like to thank our EU-colleagues in Brussels and Vienna for contributing to the preparation of this meeting.

I will focus in my remarks today on the practical work we have done and are planning to do in the field of countering terrorism. In this respect, I will bring up some areas where the co-operation with EU agencies could be enhanced. I will conclude my presentation by highlighting the benefits and great potential of continued co-operation between the OSCE and the EU.

The current co-operation between the OSCE and EU is very much alive and fruitful on many areas, levels and regions. The OSCE and the EU both share a similar, regional mandate on the Counter-Terrorism and work as promoters of UN standards on a regional level. Furthermore, both organizations are specialized capacity builders with their unique local and regional knowledge. The current co-operation is also operational and shows the best in practical activities between the OSCE and EU Commission or the EU agencies such as EUROPOL, EUROJUST or FRONTEX and in many projects, joint trainings and programmes these organizations are doing together as well as in regularly exchanged information and active expert participation in many events organized by the OSCE and/or within the framework of the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In addition, the OSCE and the EU organize meetings on promoting co-operation on a wide range of issues related to transnational threats, namely non-

proliferation, international terrorism, organized crime and cyber security. In general, the close co-operation is natural because many EU Member States are among the biggest donors to fund OSCE's activities through extra-budgetary contributions.

OSCE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ON Counter-Terrorism

The **OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism**, which was adopted by the OSCE participating States in 2012's Dublin Ministerial, provides the strategic framework for the OSCE's contribution to the global efforts against terrorism and our EU co-operation. The Consolidated Framework also highlights a number of strategic focus areas for the OSCE's action against terrorism; such as 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, and strengthening travel document security.

In addition to these strategic focus areas, the OSCE has also been providing capacity-building assistance to its participating States 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, nonproliferation under UNSCR 1540 and promoting solidarity with victims of terrorism in an international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law.

Perhaps most importantly, the Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism highlights the need to further co-ordinate our efforts internally and to co-operate externally with relevant stakeholders to counter terrorism. Internally, our Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) acts as the focal point of co-ordination among the Secretariat. Externally, the OSCE pays a particular attention to co-operation with stakeholders like other OSCE Executive Structures, the United Nations, international organizations; regional and sub-regional organizations and, of course, the European Union (EU). We want to help implement existing international instruments to counter terrorism, instead of inventing our own, while being innovative and creative on specific issues – while paying attention to 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.

2014 Chairmanship OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference

As a good practical example of information sharing, co-operation and expert participation is this year's annual Chairmanship OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism

Conference, which was held recently in Interlaken. It has become an important cross-dimensional discussion forum on current counter-terrorism issues and this year benefited from close OSCE-EU co-operation.

The 2014 Chairmanship OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference in Interlaken, Switzerland (28-29 April 2014) brought together around 200 delegates including national counter-terrorism coordinators and other governmental experts from participating States and Partners for Co-operation, as well as representatives from international organizations, academia and NGOs to discuss current counter-terrorism issues. At the end, the Swiss Chairmanship presented its conclusions, which are intended to serve as a reference for future discussions related to the fight against terrorism. They provide specific recommendations to OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation on one hand, and to the OSCE and its Executive Structures on the other, in each of the three main areas in focus during the conference: Financing of Terrorism - “Kidnapping for Ransom”; Ensuring Legality, Transparency and Accountability in Counter-Terrorism; and Responding to the Phenomenon of Individuals Taking Part in Violent Hostilities within or outside the OSCE Area (“Foreign Fighters”). You can find the main recommendations on the official OSCE website by following the link <http://www.osce.org/cio/118146?download=true>.

We very much appreciate the contributions from the EU, represented by the EU Counter Terrorism Co-ordinator, Mr. de Kerchove and an expert from Europol. Mr de Kerchove presented EU policy responses to prevent and to combat this phenomenon and the challenges associated to their implementation. He recommended that the EU and OSCE could work together more on areas such as prevention and he also expressed his interest to learn more about the OSCE experiences in Central Asia with regard to the impact of the ISAF withdrawal from Afghanistan. We will continue working with the EU in the field of prevention and share our knowledge and experiences from the OSCE projects in Central Asian countries.

OSCE EFFORTS IN COUNTERING TERRORISM

To elaborate now some recent, current and future activities on a number of on-going OSCE projects, this overview serves as an excellent opportunity to inform you about the status of implementation of the above-mentioned ‘OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism’. You will see that, in line with the OSCE approach, our response is comprehensive, co-operative and collaborative and we put special emphasis on prevention in our CT efforts.

- **In the field of strengthening a rule-of-law based criminal justice response to terrorism**, we organized the workshop on 'Enhancing Counter Terrorism Co-operation in the Mediterranean Basin while implementing the Universal Legal Instruments against Terrorism' in Malaga in September 2013.

In addition, we have organized a series of national expert workshops on effective implementation of the international terrorist bombings convention. The next national roundtable 'Good Practices to Enhance Implementation of Preventive Aspects of the Terrorist Bombings Convention' will take place in Kazakhstan in June 2014 and it will be organized in co-operation with UNODC.

As for our other future activities in this area, we are planning to organize National Training Workshops for Judges and Prosecutors in Southeast Europe and Central Asia in co-operation with the GCTF. However, the dates and locations are still under negotiation.

Furthermore, in the framework of OSCE Partners for co-operation, we will organize another Sub-regional Mediterranean Workshop on Enhancing Implementation of the Hostages and Diplomatic Agents Antiterrorism Conventions on 16-17 September 2014 in Malta.

I would like to point out that the co-operation between the OSCE and the EU on promoting effective implementation of the international terrorist bombings convention will also benefit the EU as it in fact brings EU standards, efforts and lessons learned to non-EU areas.

- **In the field of strengthening travel document security (TDS)**, the OSCE has continued to offer to its participating States a wide range of services and assistance. An example of such activities is the advanced training to detect forged documents, which was organized between 5-17 May 2014 in Istanbul, for 40 Turkish Border Police officers.

We have also continued to actively promote the ICAO PKD and both Moldova and Uzbekistan recently joined the PKD as a result of OSCE dedicated efforts to promote this tool as a best practice in the implementation of ePassport programmes.

Moreover, we organized together with ICAO a Regional Machine-Readable Travel Document (MRTD) seminar for the Central Asian region in Tashkent,

Uzbekistan on 8-10 April 2014. The event already yielded concrete capacity-building results as the Republic of Kyrgyzstan officially extended a request to the OSCE and ICAO to conduct an Assessment Visit to support its electronic Passport programme.

As a consequence of an evolution of the threat in the use of travel documents, the OSCE Travel Document Security's strategy is adapting to address more efficiently issues in identity fraud. To this end, the OSCE and ODIHR co-organized an Expert Roundtable on Addressing the Link between Travel Document Security and Population Registration/Civil Registration Documents and Processes, in Warsaw in November 2013.

With regard to our other future activities in this field, there will be a joint UNRCCA/ UN CTITF/OSCE Border Security workshop in 2nd half of 2014 and a joint UN CTED/OSCE workshop on challenges to effective border control in Central Asia in 2nd half of 2014, but the exact locations are still to be confirmed.

- **In the field of countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT)**, we have launched jointly with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Transnational Threats Department's Strategic Police Matters Unit a guidebook on *Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT): A Community-Policing Approach*. The guidebook serves as basis for trainings and provides policy guidance on central issues that can have an impact on police efforts to harness a community-policing approach to preventing terrorism and countering VERLT.

We have also continued organizing 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. The latest national seminar on VERLT took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan in the end of April and it focused on Youth Engagement to Counter Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism. We are planning to organize at least one more national seminar this year in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM).

Furthermore, we have prepared an inventory to facilitate an exchange of information on the national strategies or actions plans adopted by participating States and Partners for Co-operation in the field of countering VERLT, as well as legislation to criminalize incitement to commit acts of terrorism. The first inventory comprising of feedback from 29 participating States and 3 Partners for Co-operation has been compiled and circulated in April 2014.

With regards to co-operation with the EU, the OSCE efforts in the field of countering VERLT coincides with and reinforces many objectives outlined by the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalization and Recruitment to Terrorism. We have had close co-operation with the Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN) working groups, and we, for instance, participated in the policy workshop on Preventing and Countering Far-Right Extremism and Radicalisation in Stockholm in February.

- **In the field of countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes**, we organized throughout 2012-2013 four on-line expert forum discussions to stimulate information exchange on the latest trends and debates related to terrorist use of the Internet. In addition to on-line expert fora, we have in parallel facilitated and organized a series of national seminars, which have aimed to facilitate discussions among experts, public authorities and civil society stakeholders on the national level for promoting a comprehensive understanding of the threat posed by the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. The previous seminars have been organized in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Kyrgyzstan and Serbia. The latest national seminar on the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes took place in Kazakhstan in March 2014. It is worth mentioning that these activities have been carried out in co-operation with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, which works actively on issues of Internet governance and pluralism, promoting full compliance with OSCE press freedom commitments.

As many EU Member States and the EU agencies, especially EUROPOL and the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA), have plenty of expertise in this field, we would like to continue enhancing our co-operation with them in the future.

- **In the field of protecting non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure (NNCEI) as part of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)**, we have facilitated the exchange of information with the goal of strengthening a co-ordinated

international response to threats to NNCEI emanating from cyberspace, which we expect to be a growing concern in the future. In this regard, we developed a Good Practices Guide on Non-Nuclear Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection from Terrorist Attacks which aims to raise awareness and promote good practice to counter possible terrorist threats to NNCEIs, particularly to industrial control systems and cyber-related infrastructure. The good practices guide was launched in the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in September 2013.

As for our future activities, we are planning to organize a series of risk-assessment/crisis situation management table top exercises/trainings on a national level for interested countries in order to promote national co-operation between public agencies, owners and operators of non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure in response to targeted cyber-attacks. In addition, we are planning to organize trainings on Non-nuclear Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection (NNCEIP) about lessons learnt of the guidebook in cooperation with international partners and the NNCEIP Stakeholder Consultative Group members. The exact dates and locations are still under negotiation.

In the field of suppressing terrorist financing, the OSCE has developed a programme to raise awareness about the threat as well as necessary knowledge and tools for protection. We are going to organize regional and national workshops and trainings for representatives of Non-profit Organizations (NPOs) and state authorities to assess the threat, to raise awareness, and to train state officials and NPO staff on risk assessment, self-protection and better co-operation among themselves (Public-Private Partnerships) while complying with international law. We have continued our co-operation with a range of international partners, such as UNODC, the World Bank and the Council of Europe. We see lots of potential for enhanced co-operation with EU, especially with Europol and their Terrorism Financing Tracking Programme (TFTP).

CONCLUSION

Following then this overview of our activities in different strategic focus areas, I would like to underscore what we strive to offer to participating States and also Partners of Co-operation is the spirit of collaboration.

Our activities are based on the **comprehensive, preventive and inclusive approach** to countering terrorism.

Our working methods are based on a **cost effective mechanism for co-ordinated intervention** on a broad range of terrorism facilitators.

We can offer a unique **network of field offices** with an “ear to the ground” and people with direct contacts to all relevant stake holders.

Through our contact network with the UN and other international and regional organizations we can offer **an effective framework and catalyst** to maximize global and specialized counter terrorism efforts.

We can offer a multidimensional (the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions) **platform** for high-quality networking and information exchange.

We can offer an **information resource** through action-oriented workshops and seminars.

As for future EU/OSCE co-operation, the benefits of further collaboration would be plentiful. As we know, the OSCE and the EU share common interests in regions in Africa such as the Sahel and the Horn of Africa and in Central and South Asia, especially with a view to dealing with the post-2014 transition in Afghanistan related to CT and the OSCE’s Mediterranean Partners. With increased collaboration we would maximize synergies globally, regionally and locally and in the same time we would reduce the cost of activities’ implementation using one another’s comparative advantage, for instance, a unique network of OSCE Field Operations with an “ear to the ground”. These benefits could be gained by co-ordinating even more our efforts, by using existing resources more effectively, and capitalizing better on the capacities on the ground e.g., OSCE Field Operations and OSCE Partners for Co-operation. And this would in turn prompt more donors to see synergy among our CT activities.

I strongly believe that strategically the EU and the OSCE are a well-suited match to implement the global CT framework and that there can be no argument against closer collaboration, mutually reinforcing each other’s efforts. We welcome an interesting and useful exchange of views on the OSCE activities and hearing your views on continued and enhanced efforts to counter terrorism between the OSCE and the European Union and its Member States. Thank you for your attention.