

POLITICAL SCIENCES

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EU COMMON COUNTER-TERRORISM POLICY

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The European Security Strategy notes that international terrorism has the features of a strategic threat. The modern form of terrorism is particularly dangerous, as it creates unprecedented combinations that combine non-State actors with powerful military and technical capabilities for the purpose of mass destruction. In terms of taking advantage of the benefits of globalization, modern terrorism outpaces the inter-State associations that operate in the security sphere.

The EU's countries have proved to be an important target of various types of terrorist organizations. International terrorism is rooted in the internal political situation. And the problem lies not only in the fact that the whole series of conflicts – social, ethnic, confessional – that can become a breeding ground for terrorism, are superimposed on each other only in this region, but also that the liberal foundations of Western European statehood are poorly correlated with active anti-terrorist actions. Moreover, European integration itself, which has led to the transparency of inter-State borders, the free movement of people, goods, technology and financial flows, can help to mask terrorist activity. EU's member States have taken a number of actions to counter international terrorism, but their results have been mixed [1, p. 165].

In 2001, EU's States adopted two common positions on counter-terrorism that called for cooperation between police and judicial authorities. However, the European Union has not yet adopted a common position on the counter-terrorism. In response to the terrorist attacks in Madrid, the first EU's Declaration on Combating Terrorism was adopted. A direct consequence of the EU's hard line on Iraq and Iran has also been the rise of international terrorist groups in EU's member states (the London attacks). Consequently, the threat of international terrorism will grow in direct proportion to the intensification of the EU's security activities at the global level.

The process of working out a common counter-terrorism policy within the EU has been particularly intensive since the terrorist attacks in Madrid in March 2004 and in London in July 2005.

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In December 2005, the EU's Council of Ministers of Justice approved a new counter-terrorism strategy. Its main objective is to provide the EU's counter-terrorism policy to public in a clear and transparent manner. The strategy has four main objectives: prevention, protection, pursuit and response. The aim is to establish close cooperation between EU's members in various areas of activity with a purpose of preventing terrorism.

Since 2005, the process of incorporating biometric data into passports and then into visas has been under way. The Schengen Information System already includes data on persons to be arrested, those who should be denied entry into the EU, missing persons and those who need to be monitored. Biometric data will be included in the second-generation system, B1B II.

The European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union, officially opened in July 2005, coordinates border services, trains border guards and systematically assesses risks at EU's borders.

The European Council has adopted a new WMD programme, that provides a series of progressive steps to be taken to prevent a terrorist attack or, failing that, to minimize its destructive effects (e.g., threat assessment, protection of life-support infrastructure and cooperation between agencies responsible for disaster management). In addition, the European Lifeline Infrastructure Protection Programme and the Crisis Alert System are being established (ARGUS).

The European Union pays particular attention to the problem of countering the financing of terrorism. On 20 September 2005, the EU adopted the Third Anti-money Laundering Directive. It took into account the recommendations of the international organization on financial control (Financial Action Task Force (FAFT)).

At the same time, it should be emphasized that, despite the efforts made, there are still a number of problems that undermine the effectiveness of joint counter-terrorism activities. This is mainly due to weak cooperation between EU's member states and specialized European agencies such as Europol and Eurojust. First of all, there is a lack of systematism in the exchange of information between intelligence and law enforcement agencies and in the coordination and participation in joint investigations and operations [2, p. 865]. In order to achieve the objective set out in the EU's Counter-Terrorism Strategy – to prevent, protect, pursue and respond to international terrorism – it is vital to focus on addressing the above-mentioned problem.

References:

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