



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Foreign Affairs

2010/2311(INI)

27.5.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the EU Counter-Terrorism Policy: main achievements and future challenges
(2010/2311(INI))

Rapporteur: Ágnes Hankiss

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Recognises that terrorism, as stated in the European Security Strategy¹ and its Implementation Report², remains a major threat to international stability and European societies that requires a globally coordinated response which fully respects human rights and fundamental freedoms; emphasises that counter-terrorism requires a comprehensive approach based on intelligence, police, judiciary, political and – in some limited cases – military means; points out that under the solidarity clause defined in Article 222 TFEU a CSDP operation could be decided to assist a Member State, at the request of its political authorities, in the event of a terrorist attack; underlines the need for preparedness and welcomes the ongoing update of the military database and the European Defence Agency's contribution to combating terrorism;
2. Emphasises the need for the European Union, its Member States and its partner countries to base their strategy for combating international terrorism on the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights; underlines furthermore that the Union's external actions to combat international terrorism should in the first place be aimed at prevention, and highlights the need to promote dialogue, tolerance and understanding among different cultures, civilisations and religions;
3. Highlights that there are still institutional obstacles to an effective EU counter-terrorism policy, notably the multiple committees, agencies and bureaucracies involved; emphasises that the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator has a vital role to play in ensuring the implementation and evaluation of the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy, coordinating counter-terrorist work within the Union, and fostering better communication between the EU and third countries; invites him to continue to brief Parliament regularly on these issues;
4. Promotes a holistic and comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism policy by suggesting the harmonisation of the European Security Strategy and the Internal Security Strategy³ and the strengthening of existing coordination mechanisms between Justice and Home Affairs Council structures, agencies and the European External Action Service, taking advantage of the new capabilities of the Situation Centre (SitCen) in order to provide timely information and strategic analyses and thereby to better coordinate external and internal policy instruments; encourages the Counter-Terrorism Co-ordinator to continue his efforts in this field;
5. Urges EU Member States to ensure that no acts of terrorism originate from within their own borders and therefore commit sufficient resources to domestic counter-radicalization and counter-terrorism; calls for closer cooperation between the EU and NATO in counter-

¹ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/78367.pdf>

² http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/reports/104630.pdf

³ <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st05/st05842-re02.en10.pdf>

terrorism policy and suggests that the HR/VP and Counter-Terrorism Coordinator should be actively engaged in counter-terrorism discussions with NATO; welcomes informal groupings of Member States such as the Salzburg Group, Baltic Sea Task Force and G6 coming together to coordinate security and conduct anti-terrorist exercises; advocates widening these efforts to include more Member States and recommends shared training between security and police forces of Member States;

6. Draws attention to the need to expand and develop existing and new counter-terrorism-related strategic partnerships with countries outside Europe, as long as these partnerships respect human rights; emphasises the strategic cooperation between the Union and the US and points out the need for cooperation with other partners, reiterating the importance the Union attaches to the protection of citizens' personal data and their human and civil rights; notes bilateral initiatives and agreements such as the EU-US and Member States 2010 Declaration on Counterterrorism, the Agreement on the Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (the so-called SWIFT agreement), the Toledo declaration on aviation security, as well as the EU-India Joint Declaration on International Terrorism, as positive examples to be followed in the Union's relations with other third countries;
7. Stresses that good intelligence is crucial to combat terrorism and that the EU is uniquely well placed to facilitate intelligence sharing between Member States; points out accordingly that human intelligence, on top of all technical means available, remains indispensable in tackling terrorist networks and for the timely prevention of attacks; welcomes the work of SitCen in providing strategic analysis and encourages further intelligence sharing at the EU level between Member States and key third countries; encourages closer cooperation by Europol and Eurojust with non-EU law enforcement agencies, in order to ensure early warning;
8. Underlines that counter-terrorism is an integral part of the Union's relations with third countries; asks for an increase in the funding of counter-terrorism assistance measures in the next Instrument for Stability in order to prevent state failure; agrees, in this respect, with the priority areas being South Asia, in particular Pakistan and Afghanistan, the Sahel region (Mauretania, Mali, Niger), Somalia and Yemen; welcomes the presentation of the European Union Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel on 21 March 2011 and calls on the Council to adopt the Strategy in consultation with the European Parliament; welcomes the insertion of counter-terrorism clauses in international agreements;
9. Stresses the importance of counter-terrorism cooperation between the Union and other international organisations, in particular the UN, which is based on common values and objectives, and calls for universal ratification and full implementation of all UN conventions and protocols relevant to terrorism; calls for a closer working relationship with UN bodies and regional organisations so that all UN Member States can fully implement their counter-terrorism obligations; advocates the adoption of a UN Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism and enhanced cooperation with the Council of Europe and the OSCE in counter-terrorism; highlights the Union's achievement of promoting a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at the UN level and asks for a careful examination of the UN Security Council procedure of listing and delisting terrorist organisations and individuals; in this regard, welcomes the adoption of UNSC resolution

1904 (2009) that provided for a periodic review of the list and created an Office of the Ombudsperson to assist the Sanctions Committee in de-listing individuals;

10. Calls for the creation of a comprehensive strategy on the interconnection between international organised crime, drug trafficking and terrorism; encourages the continuous analysis of new trends and traits in diversification, radicalisation and recruitment and those related to the role of international non-governmental organisations in terrorism financing.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	24.5.2011
Result of final vote	+: 48 -: 7 0: 4
Members present for the final vote	Sir Robert Atkins, Dominique Baudis, Elmar Brok, Arnaud Danjean, Michael Gahler, Ana Gomes, Andrzej Grzyb, Heidi Hautala, Anna Ibrisagic, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Jelko Kacin, Ioannis Kasoulides, Tunne Kelam, Nicole Kiil-Nielsen, Evgeni Kirilov, Andrey Kovatchev, Pawel Robert Kowal, Eduard Kukan, Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Krzysztof Lisek, Sabine Lösing, Ulrike Lunacek, Barry Madlener, Mario Mauro, Kyriakos Mavronikolas, Willy Meyer, Francisco José Millán Mon, María Muñoz De Urquiza, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Norica Nicolai, Raimon Obiols, Kristiina Ojuland, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Cristian Dan Preda, Fiorello Provera, Libor Rouček, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Nikolaos Salavrakos, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Werner Schulz, Marek Siwiec, Hannes Swoboda, Charles Tannock, Inese Vaidere, Geoffrey Van Orden, Kristian Vigenin, Graham Watson, Boris Zala
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Reinhard Bütikofer, Tanja Fajon, Kinga Gál, Elisabeth Jeggle, Baroness Sarah Ludford, Norbert Neuser, Doris Pack, Vittorio Prodi, Dominique Vlasto, Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Joachim Zeller