



A *Statewatch* analysis: no 9

EU definition of terrorism:

Anarchists to be targeted as “terrorists” along alongside Al Qaeda

Introduction

Europol has produced a Situation and Trends report on terrorist activity in the European Union. As might be expected the report covers ETA in Spain, the Real IRA in Northern Ireland, the National Front for the Liberation of Corsica and "Islamic extremist terrorism" (including Al Qaeda). The report stresses that although the number of incidents was "showing a small decrease" the "importance of the attacks increased dramatically" - this was because after 11 September the "European Union is not only a target for terrorist attacks but also an important area for preparatory and logistic purposes in the widest sense". It further notes that progress is taking place in Northern Ireland, and that ceasefires, both in Northern Ireland and Corsica have "been maintained by the main players".

One new category added in 2001 was "eco-terrorism" on which the report gives no examples. The report simply says in total that: "Radical environmentalists and animal rights movements have maintained a limited campaign. Nevertheless, the material damage they caused was extensive". No definition of "eco-terrorism" is given nor is one planned in the proposed extension of Europol's role (see *Statewatch's* The activities and development of Europol pamphlet). It is thus hard to see the distinction between activity which might be termed a criminal offence as distinct from a "terrorist" offence.

Another new category which is even more problematic is that of "anarchist terrorism". In February 2001 a Europol seminar on counter-terrorism held in Madrid agreed on a proposal by Spain, Portugal, Greece and Italy to set up a joint investigation team on "anarchist terrorism". It appears that after Genoa in July 2001 Europol may have set up an "analysis file" on "anarchist terrorism" which in turn fed through into this Situation report. Interviewed by a German newspaper in August Jurgen Storbeck, Europol's Director, said the so-called "Black Block" of anarchists could be seen as "terrorist or pre-terrorist".

The following analysis looks at the many questions that arise from the inclusion of "anarchist terrorism" which relies almost totally on examples from Italy and at the attempt to extend terrorism in Spain to legitimate political groups.

Analysis

The report says that "anarchist terrorism" could be a symptom of the possible "resurrection of left wing terrorism" and refers to a series of terrorist attacks "in the southern part of the Union". In fact all the incidents referred to are in Italy, and the report claims that these examples could spark the return of EU-wide "left wing and anarchist terrorism".

This is claimed, by some tortuous logic, to be an EU-wide problem as:

"left wing and anarchist websites in northern European countries cover this [Italian] situation in depth, the possibility of the resurrection of the left wing and anarchist terrorist groups is existent, in which the southern terrorist activity might function as an example"

***Statewatch* monitoring the state and civil liberties in the EU**

The report is drawn up by Europol which appears to have rubber-stamped "intelligence" passed to it by member states seeking support for their internal agendas, on the basis of on-going judicial proceedings.

Italy has been investigating numerous anarchists accused of "subversive association" following the G8 summit in Genoa while Spain has been criminalising a number of Basque nationalist groups and left-wing activists by claiming that they are "part of ETA". This led to the inclusion of several Basque groups in the EU list of proscribed organisations and now this situation report.

Italy

Anarchists in Italy have been blamed for a spate of minor bomb attacks over the last few years, with links to groups in Spain, Portugal and Greece alleged by the Italian Interior Ministry. In particular, investigating magistrates have been linking investigations into actions attributed to anarchists to the struggle against the dispersal, isolation and hard prison regime for political prisoners (FIES) in Spain.

After the G8 summit in Genoa, anarchists were blamed by Italian authorities for violent clashes between police and protestors, and a backlash followed against the anarchist movement which led to nation-wide raids involving detentions, searches and a number of person being placed under investigation.

The threat assessment report expresses concern over the "first signs of the possible resurrection of left wing terrorism", due to episodes of anarchist terrorism "in the second half of 2001". These are attributed to "International Solidarity" (Solidarieta Internazionale), an umbrella name for an organisation carrying out attacks in southern Europe, with examples listed from Italy. The examples provided are inaccurate in a number of respects and the problem has been highlighted beyond its actual significance.

Firstly, the document mistakenly states that the sixty alleged Solidarieta Internazionale members detained in September were "allegedly preparing terrorist attacks against Milan's cathedral and other objectives in the same city". The attacks referred to actually occurred on 26 October 1999 (a carabinieri station), 28 June 2000 (Sant'Ambrogio church) and 18 December 2000 (the Duomo, Milan's cathedral), and were claimed by the group. Sixty people were detained on 18 September for allegedly being members of Solidarieta Internazionale, believed to be involved in attempted bombings in Milan (none of the bombs exploded) (see Statewatch vol 11 no 5). They have been released and are currently under investigation.

Secondly, investigations into another device that exploded in July 2001 outside the Palazzo di giustizia in Venice after the G8 summit, also included under the heading "anarchist terrorism", are still ongoing. Although anarchists or left-wingers were originally blamed, investigating magistrate Felice Casson ordered the arrest of a 26-year-old right-winger, Cristiano Rifani, in January 2001 and a second suspect is also a right-winger. A number of the cases included in the report are still unresolved, including an explosion in Rome on 11 May 2000 that targeted the Institute for International Affairs and the Council for US-Italian relations. It was claimed by the Nuclei di Iniziativa Proletaria in a 36-page e-mail document. Raul Terilli, Fabrizio Sante Antonini and Roberta Ripaldi, three activists, are under arrest in connection with this and other minor bombing incidents. In a letter from prison to anarchist magazine Croce Nera Anarchica, Fabrizio Sante Antonini claimed that "... on the night between July 15 and 16 2001" numerous searches were carried out in which "nothing was found". He adds that "after over two years of interceptions, surveillance ... the normal personal relationships of a person written into police records acquire suspicious and perverse traits, the source for who knows what criminal conspiracy". He called on all activists and organisation to become active to "deconstruct this sandcastle based on falsehood and lies, with the aim of shutting up any voice expressing dissent or struggle".

A device that exploded outside the Northern League's headquarters in Vigonza (Padua) on 24 August 2001 is also included in the list of anarchist terrorist attacks although investigators say

that it was just as likely that it was planted by ordinary organised crime.

There is an extensive history in Italy of anarchists or "left-wingers" appearing as suspects in the early stages of investigations, being arrested and later being shown to be innocent. In 2000 and 2001 two trials concerning explosions during the so-called "years of lead" originally blamed on anarchists resulted in convictions for right-wingers acting with state collusion (see Statewatch bulletin vol 10 no 2 & vol 11 no 3/4). Three members of Ordine Nuovo, a neo-fascist group with alleged links to Italian and US secret services, received life sentences on 30 June 2001 for planting a bomb in Milan's Banca dell'agricoltura in 1969, killing sixteen people. Two anarchists, Giuseppe Pinelli and Pietro Valpreda, were the original suspects. Pinelli died after falling out of a window when he was being questioned in custody, and Valpreda spent three years in prison. Gianfranco Bertoli was found guilty on 11 March 2000 for a 1973 bombing outside Milan's police station in which four people were killed - despite his claims that he was an anarchist, he was found to have been employed by the Italian secret service, SIFAR, and to have links with far-right groups, particularly Ordine Nuovo.

Massimo Cacciari, the former centre-left mayor of Venice, has criticised attempts by centre-right politicians to assume that bombings are left-wing before investigations are carried out. Alluding to the "years of lead", he claimed that "only in Italy, we pretend that the world hasn't changed", adding that "in the seventies, there was the actual threat of a civil war, there were coups d'etat ... there was a risk for democracy", which is no longer the case.

Luca Giannasi, an informer for the Italian military secret service (SISMI) received an eight-month prison sentence on 14 February 2001 for possession of explosives and was acquitted on the more serious charges of organising and carrying out two bombings in Milan. Based on a statement given to the police by Giuseppe Fregosi, an associate who was arrested for arms trafficking, Giannasi was arrested in connection with a bomb that exploded on 22 September 1998 in front of a Guardia di Finanza office and an unexploded device planted in the Bocconi University on 21 April 1999. Fregosi claimed that he provided Giannasi with explosive that the latter said would be used for making explosive devices. This evidence was not allowed in court because Fregosi refused to repeat his allegations in the trial. Giannasi allegedly told SISMI that attacks by anarchists were imminent between June and September 1998 and blamed the attack on the Customs office on Milan anarchists. A leaflet from a quite unknown group, the Nuclei di Guerriglia Antirazzista (Anti-Racist Guerrilla Units) was conveniently found with the device in a university classroom.

The inclusion of "anarchist terrorism", solely on the basis of evidence from Italy, begs the question about the proven role of right-wingers who have caused explosions in Italy. In one case a known right-winger was caught red-handed when he injured himself in an attempt to bomb the Rome headquarters of communist daily newspaper Il manifesto on 22 December 2000. Andrea Insabato, a right-winger with links to Forza Nuova leader Roberto Fiore, was arrested after the attack against Il manifesto and received a 12-year prison sentence in February 2001. In recent years a museum on the Resistance movement (against nazism and fascism and a cinema where a film on nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann was being screened were also attacked with explosive devices.

Spain

The Spanish authorities have been conducting an ongoing campaign to criminalise Basque political organisations advocating autonomy, including youth organisations and prisoner support groups, by claiming that they are part of ETA. The inclusion of such groups - which were controversially outlawed in Spain in 2001 - listed in the document as "an ETA support organisation" (Ekin), organisations "closely affiliated with ETA" (Ekin, Haika and prisoner support group Gestoras pro-amnistia) and "bureau for international relations for ETA" (Xaki) supports this approach. These groups were also included in the EU list of terrorist organisations attached to the "Common position on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism" on the basis of information indicating that a decision by a competent authority regarding these groups in relation to terrorist offences has been taken "irrespective of whether it concerns the instigation of investigations or prosecution". Thus, the principle of "innocent until proven guilty" is dispensed with, and the fact that numerous arrests in connection with terrorist activities have

been overturned on appeal is ignored. Catalan left wing groups have also alleged that arrests have taken place to link grassroots movements to ETA, including a raid in the Netherlands (see *Statewatch news online*, February) organised by European prosecutions unit pro-Eurojust to arrest Juan Ramirez Rodriguez, a singer in a Catalan political rock band.

In 2000 the Spanish government hardened its anti-terrorist legislation by extending the definition of *apologia de terrorismo* (defending terrorism) from incitement to commit offences to applauding a crime or praising its author. This was part of a raft of measures that also included treating minors as adults if they are involved in terrorist activity, and the conversion of *kale borroka* (street struggle/violence) into a terrorist offence. These measures were aimed at the wider Basque nationalist movement, at a time when any criticism of the government's anti-terrorist policy, or any claim for increased Basque sovereignty (even if it is conducted through the democratic system), is interpreted by the government as connivance with ETA - this happens regularly to the mainstream PNV (Basque Nationalist Party).

The Spanish government also wanted to have political party, Batasuna, listed as a terrorist organisation on the EU list - this failed when other EU member states pointed out that it would be a contradiction, as Batasuna is a political party with representatives in Spanish institutions. The ruling PP (Partido Popular) and opposition PSOE (Socialist Workers Party) are planning to resolve this issue, in the framework of an "Anti-terrorist pact" between the two parties, by making parties that "shelter or justify terrorism, xenophobia and racism" illegal, according to justice minister Angel Acebes. The criminalisation of Batasuna would make it difficult for a peace process such as those developing in Corsica and Northern Ireland, whose progress is welcomed in the document, to occur.

The conversion of public order offences/violence into terrorist crimes if they have a political scope, any violent act motivated by claims for Basque independence may see its perpetrator linked to ETA, regardless of whether a link exists. The crucial issue is the support for a "terrorist goal". If a group opposes Spanish anti-terrorist policy (on human rights or other grounds), they become entities abusing their legal status to support "terrorists". If this criterion were adopted at a European level, the identification of a left-wing terrorist threat could lead to the description as "terrorist" (by association) of all activists in the EU.

Conclusion

As to the inclusion of "eco-terrorism", no incidents are mentioned other than a "limited campaign" which has caused "extensive" material damage. The case for placing "eco-terrorism" in a terrorist threat document alongside Al Qaida appears highly questionable, and the absence of detail may be linked to possible support by EU citizens for actions carried out by some environmentalists which it would be convenient to construe as terrorism. Tony Bunyan, *Statewatch*. editor, commented: "*The exclusion of right-wing bombing attacks in Italy - let alone violent and murderous attacks on migrants in several EU countries by racists - suggests that the inclusion of "anarchist terrorism" and "eco-terrorism" in this EU Situation report is aimed at criminalising the radical left (and expanding the concept of terrorism).*"

Situation in the terrorist activity in the European Union: Situation report and trends - September 2000 to September 2001, full-text: 5759/02; Sources: Corriere della Sera 21-22.4.99, 26.4.00, 28.4.00, 18.6.00, 27.12.00, 1.8.01, 29.8.01, 20.9.01, 22.11.01, 15.2.02; Crocenera Anarchica no3, Dec.2001; El Mundo 16.1.02; El Pais 17.11.00, 19-20.2.01, 22.12.01, 27-28.12.01, 21.1.02; Euskalinfo 3.5.01, 15.6.01; Il Manifesto 28.8.01, 7-8.2.02; Il Messaggero 13.6.01; Indymedia 16.1.02; Repubblica 14.12.99, 16.11.00, 11.4.01, 17.7.01, 24.8.01, 26-28.8.01, 19.9.01; Repubblica online 28.8.01, 14.2.02; Spanish Interior Ministry press statements 5.4.01, 3.8.01, 14.9.01, 28.12.01, 4.2.02, 6.2.02; Stampa 26.8.01; Televideo 29.1.00.

See documentation appendix: Situation in the terrorist activity in the European Union: situations and trends, 5759/02
For full documentation please see: www.statewatch.org/observatory2.htm

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Documentation

Council of the European Union

Situation in the terrorist activity in the European Union: situations and trends

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : Article 36 Committee

to : COREPER/Council

No. prev. doc. : 14924/01 ENFOPOL 150

Subject : Situation in the terrorist activity in the European Union : situation and trends

1. At its meeting of 20 September 2001 the Council approved the production of an open document on the situation and trends of terrorism in Europe. After approval by the Council the document will be sent to the European Parliament and made public.
2. The first document covering the period September 2000 - September 2001 drawn up by Europol as amended and agreed by the Article 36 Committee at its meeting of 19 December 2001 is annexed.
3. COREPER is invited to forward the present document to the Council for approval and subsequent transmission to the European Parliament and publication.

SITUATION IN THE TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: SITUATION AND TRENDS

September 2000 – September 2001

During the year 2001 terrorism has been confirmed as one of the major concerns for the European Union due to the enormous impact on the European Union, the Member States, economy and society. Existing groups continued their terrorist activities. The number of incidents was showing a small decrease, whereas the importance of the attacks increased dramatically.

The decrease in the number of terrorist incidents is however gratifying. Police services were on number of occasions very successful, for instance in Spain and in Ireland, in arresting terrorist cells and seizing terrorist paraphernalia.

On the political side it is worthwhile noting the progress in the Northern Ireland peace process. Subsequently cease-fires in Corsica and in Northern Ireland, except from dissidents groups, have been maintained by the main players.

Important from a global point of view is the fact that the European Union is not only a target for terrorist attacks but also an important area for preparatory and logistic purposes in the widest sense. In the aftermath of 11th September attacks in the Unites States of America, it became clear that a number of the suicide hijackers allegedly prepared their activities in the European Union.

1. SEPARATIST TERRORISM

1.1. Spain/ France

1.1.1 General situation

The Bask separatist terrorist organisation, **Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA)** has been the most active terrorist organisation in the European Union. The politicians, military, journalists and the judiciary have been their most frequent targets. The summer campaign against Spain's tourist interests was also of importance.

The techniques used varied from shooting victims in the back of the neck to car bombs, also using letter bombs and booby-trapped explosive devices. **ETA**'s favourite explosive is dynamite. In two cases **ETA** stole quantities of these explosives from depots in France (Grenoble, Plevin).

During a 'cease fire' period that finished in December 1999, **ETA** discovered how effective the staging of violent public disorder was to terrorise the Basque population. Juvenile groups, linked to **ETA** have been more frequently used in arson attacks against automatic cash dispensers, public transport (buses), train stations, car dealers and shops and houses owned by members of the Popular Party and Socialist Party of the Basque Country. **ETA** selects future activists from among these youths.

1.1.2. Law enforcement and judicial activity

Spanish law enforcement agencies have been very successful in their fight against terrorism all over the year 2001. The **ETA** cells Barcelona, Madrid, and Donosti (San Sebastian), were dismantled. The dismantling of the Donosti cell was especially relevant, with the arrest of 38 people.

EKIN, an **ETA** support organisation was declared illegal, and the leaders of **Haika**, a juvenile organisation, and of the pro-amnesty association **Gestoras Pro-Amnistia** were arrested by order of the Spanish National Judicial Authorities. The three organisations are closely affiliated with **ETA**. Another association called **XAKI** that worked as bureau for international relationships for **ETA** was also closed.

1.1.3. International cooperation:

France co-operated with Spain in combating **ETA**. Sixteen activists of this organisation – among whom were the activists responsible for the military and logistic apparatus, for the reserve cells and for passing weapons and terrorist cells over the French-Spanish border - were arrested on French soil. Additionally, three activists were handed over to the Spanish authorities, three training camps were found in the region of Les Landes, and 1,600 kilos of dynamite that had been stolen by **ETA** activists in Grenoble were recovered near Pau.

It caused **ETA** to announce that the French authorities are now included in its target-list, thus spreading the threat over the southwestern part of the European Union. Although there is no collateral information, it might spur **ETA** to start a European Union wide campaign as it carried out in 1989 and 1990.

1.2. Northern Ireland

1.2.1 General situation:

On 06 August 2001, the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) reported that agreement had been reached with the **Provisional IRA (PIRA)** on a method to put its arms completely and verifiably beyond use. On 23 October 2001, the IICD confirmed that it had witnessed a quantity of arms, ammunition and explosives being put completely beyond use. It also confirmed that contact would be maintained with the PIRA representative. As a result David Trimble, the First Minister in the devolved Northern Ireland Executive returned to his post from which he had resigned in July because he was unhappy with the lack of PIRA progress on decommissioning.

Irish republican dissident terrorist groups continued to carry out attacks in Northern Ireland and, in the case of the Real IRA (RIRA), in Great Britain as well. High-profile attacks by RIRA in Great Britain this year have included three car bombs. Two were in London at the BBC Television Centre in March; and in Ealing Broadway, a commercial and leisure area, in August (seven injured). In November RIRA mounted another car bomb attack in a commercial and leisure area in Birmingham. On this occasion the device failed to detonate fully.

Loyalist terrorists groups in Northern Ireland continued with their feuds with each other and to carry out attacks on Catholics. One Loyalist group, the Ulster Defence Association, was responsible for violence in connection with protests at the Holy Cross Catholic primary school in a loyalist district of Belfast.

1.2.2. Law enforcement and judicial activity:

Police services in Ireland and the United Kingdom continue to investigate and disrupt the activities of dissident republicans.

These investigations have resulted in the seizure of significant amounts of explosives and firearms which had brought us to the position where a number of activists are serving prison sentences, and others are in custody awaiting trial.

The investigation into the Omagh bomb continues on both sides of the border. The current position is that the trial of one person charged with conspiracy to cause explosions is ongoing before the courts.

1.3. France/ Corsica

1.3.1. General situation

The National Front for the Liberation of Corsica (FLNC) has carried out a campaign of terror attacks against Police and Gendarmerie barracks and properties owned by continental Frenchmen.

Armata Corsa, another separatist group, planted a car bomb in Paris in March 2001. The car bomb did not detonate. It is alleged that the groups merely wanted to show its capabilities in perpetrating attacks. The leader and a member of this group were killed in Corsica in August allegedly by rival criminal gangs. The characteristics of the two bomb attacks carried out in Corsica in July, in which police barracks were targeted, made the authorities fear for a possible division inside the ranks of the existing Corsican separatist movements, as a result of their frustration regarding the peace process, known as the "Matignon" agreements. The emerging of new but more radical Corsican separatist group is thus still considered to be a possibility.

1.3.2. Law enforcement and judicial activity:

No further details.

2. ISLAMIC EXTREMIST TERRORISM

2.1. General situation

Extremist Islamic terrorist groups have continued to threaten the security of the European Union. Arrests in the European Union clearly demonstrate the existence in the European Union and the potential danger of terrorist attacks by these groups.

The European Law Enforcement agencies displayed an important activity against Islamic Extremist terrorist groups, both before and after the attacks on 11 September in the USA.

2.2. Law enforcement and judicial activity before 11th September 2001

United Kingdom

On 16th February 2001, six people were arrested in London after police conducted searches under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and subsequently charged with the possession of terrorist paraphernalia and associated deception offences.

Spain

The Spanish Police arrested in June 2001 an Islamic activist, a key person of the Al Qaeda network. Last September the Spanish Police also arrested a cell of the **Algerian Salafist Group for Preach and Combat**. In total 11 persons were arrests.

France

French authorities carried out a number of actions against Islamic fundamentalist groups:

- In February 2001, four activists that formed part of the so-called '**Group of Roubaix**' were killed during a raid on their hideout by the special intervention team of the French police. An activist who escaped to Belgium died in a shoot out with the Belgian Gendarmerie, while another was arrested in Belgium.

Two other activists escaped to Bosnia via Italy, but were arrested in Bosnia after having killed a policeman. One was extradited to France, while the other managed to escape from prison. This investigation uncovered a triangular network for trafficking in forged documents between Belgium, Canada and Turkey.

- On 7th February 2001, the trial of 28 Islamic activists suspected of being involved in an international network based in Bosnia started in Paris. A few weeks later, another trial was started in Roubaix, for some robberies using military weaponry that had been carried out in 1996.
- In June 2001, the trial of five Algerian-born Islamic activists, allegedly members of the **Groupe Islamiste Armé (GIA)** began.
- French authorities expelled on 9th November 2001 an Islamic activist. The man, one of the main responsible persons for the logistic support of the Algerian **GIA**, was expelled to Algeria.

Germany

In December 2000, the German Bundeskriminalamt arrested a terrorist cell based in Frankfurt (Germany). One of the alleged terrorists managed to escape, but was subsequently arrested in June 2001 in Alicante (Spain). Subsequent joint investigations of the German and United States authorities linked this group to another suspect, who was already arrested at the end of 1999, while trying to smuggle 60 kilos of explosives from Canada into the US, with the alleged purpose to attack the Los Angeles airport. On July 2001 an Algerian national, living in the United Kingdom, was accused by the US federal prosecutor with being linked to the Frankfurt cell and being one of the masterminds behind this plot.

Italy

In April 2001 Italian authorities arrested a cell integrated in the Al-Qaeda network. This cell had connections in France, Germany and United Kingdom.

2.3. Law enforcement and judicial activity after 11th September attacks

Belgium/ The Netherlands

During a joint operation against a suspected radical Islamic Extremist terrorist group, eight people were arrested in Belgium and the Netherlands on 19th September 2001.

The U.S. Embassy and other United States interests in France, as well as the Strasbourg cathedral, were the alleged targets of this group.

Germany

Three of the hijackers (Mohammed ATTA, Marwan ALSHEHHI and Ziad JARRAH) have lived at least temporarily in Hamburg. The investigations so far have lead to hints for the involvement of other perpetrators during the planning and preparation, international relations to Islamic-ideological leaders and world-wide financial transactions. International arrest warrants for the suspicion of the involvement in a terrorist organization, thousands of homicides as well as other serious crimes have been issued against three suspects (Said BAHAJI, Ramsi BINALSHIB und Zakariya ESSABAR).

United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom arrests were made in September 2001. These arrests were related to the 11th September attacks and the arrests made in Belgium and The Netherlands during the joint operation of 19th September 2001.

France/Italy/ Spain

Arrests were made related to the 11th September attacks and the arrests made in Belgium and The Netherlands, as well as a result from prior investigations.

3. OTHER TERRORIST RELATED INCIDENTS

3.1. General situation

3.1.1. Anarchist terrorism

First signs of the possible resurrection of left wing terrorism viz. anarchist terrorism were visible in the second half of 2001. Under an umbrella name “ International Solidarity” attacks were carried out in the southern part of the European Union. The attributed attacks were in solidarity with imprisoned anarchists and against prison regimes. As left wing and anarchist web-sites in the Northern European countries cover this situation in depth, the possibility of resurrection of the left wing and anarchist terrorist groups is existent, in which the southern terrorist activity might function as an example.

Italy has suffered other terrorist attacks by anarchist groups this year, viz. against the Palais of Justice in Venice, the headquarter of the Lega Nord in Vigonza (Padova), a church in Agrigento and a building of the municipality of Catanzaro.

On 10th April 2001, a powerful bomb caused material damage to the outside of the buildings housing two non-governmental organisations in Rome (Italy). The responsibility was claimed by the group Nucleus for Proletarian and Revolutionary Initiatives. The same night another explosive device was found in Turin outside a former office of FIAT. Police dismantled this bomb by a controlled explosion before detonating.

On 26th August 2001, a letter bomb exploded in the Office for Tourist Advice of the municipality of Catanzaro.

3.1.2. Eco-Terrorism

Radical environmentalist and animal rights movements have maintained a limited campaign. Nevertheless, the material damage they caused was extensive.

3.2. Law enforcement and judicial activity

Italy

In Italy, sixty members of the Italian anarchist group Solidarieta Internazionale were arrested on 18th September 2001. They were allegedly preparing terrorist attacks against Milan's cathedral and other objectives in the same city.

4. RESUME

The September 11 attacks in the USA have marked a new era in the fight against terrorism, as well as in the terrorist theatre. The developments in the so-called war on terrorism against the ruling Taleban regime in Afghanistan and the al-Qaeda network will be of extreme importance for the future of combating terrorism in the European Union and globally. At the moment Islamic Extremist Terrorism could be regarded as the main threat against the European Union. However it would be dangerous to focus only on this phenomenon, as other European terrorist groups still remain active with all possible consequences.