



EUROPOL

TE-SAT 2013

EU TERRORISM SITUATION
AND TREND REPORT

TE-SAT 2013

EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report



TE-SAT 2013

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Acknowledgements

The EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) has been produced by analysts and experts at Europol, drawing on contributions from EU Member States and external partners. Europol would like to express its gratitude to Member States, Eurojust, third countries and partner organisations for their high-quality contributions.

Print and DTP: Van Deventer, the Netherlands

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FOREWORD

The fight against terrorism remains a top priority for the European Union and for Europol. The terrorist bomb attack at Burgas airport in Bulgaria and the shootings by a lone gunman in France claimed the lives of 14 people in 2012 and illustrate the serious threat that terrorism poses to the EU and its citizens, both inside and outside the Union's territory. Three other citizens also lost their lives to terrorism in 2012, in separate attacks in Belgium, France and Northern Ireland. Europol continues to play a key role in combating organised crime and terrorism, using its unique information capabilities and expertise to support the competent authorities of the EU Member States.

The TE-SAT is one of Europol's most significant strategic analysis products. It offers law enforcement officials, policymakers and the general public facts and figures regarding terrorism in the EU while, at the same time, seeking to identify developing trends in this phenomenon. It is a public document produced annually and is based on information provided and verified by the competent authorities of the EU Member States. This and previous editions of the TE-SAT reports are available on Europol's website: www.europol.europa.eu.

EU Member States define terrorism as acts which aim to intimidate populations, compel states to comply with the perpetrators' demands and/or destabilise the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country or international organisation. This document recognises that definition in the collection and reporting of its source data.

In contrast to previous years, the total number of terrorist attacks and terrorism-related arrests in the EU in 2012 showed a marked increase. The threat from terrorism, therefore, remains strong in Europe. It also continues to evolve from

structured groups and networks to smaller EU-based groups and solo terrorists or lone actors, while the Internet remains a key facilitator for terrorism-related activities.

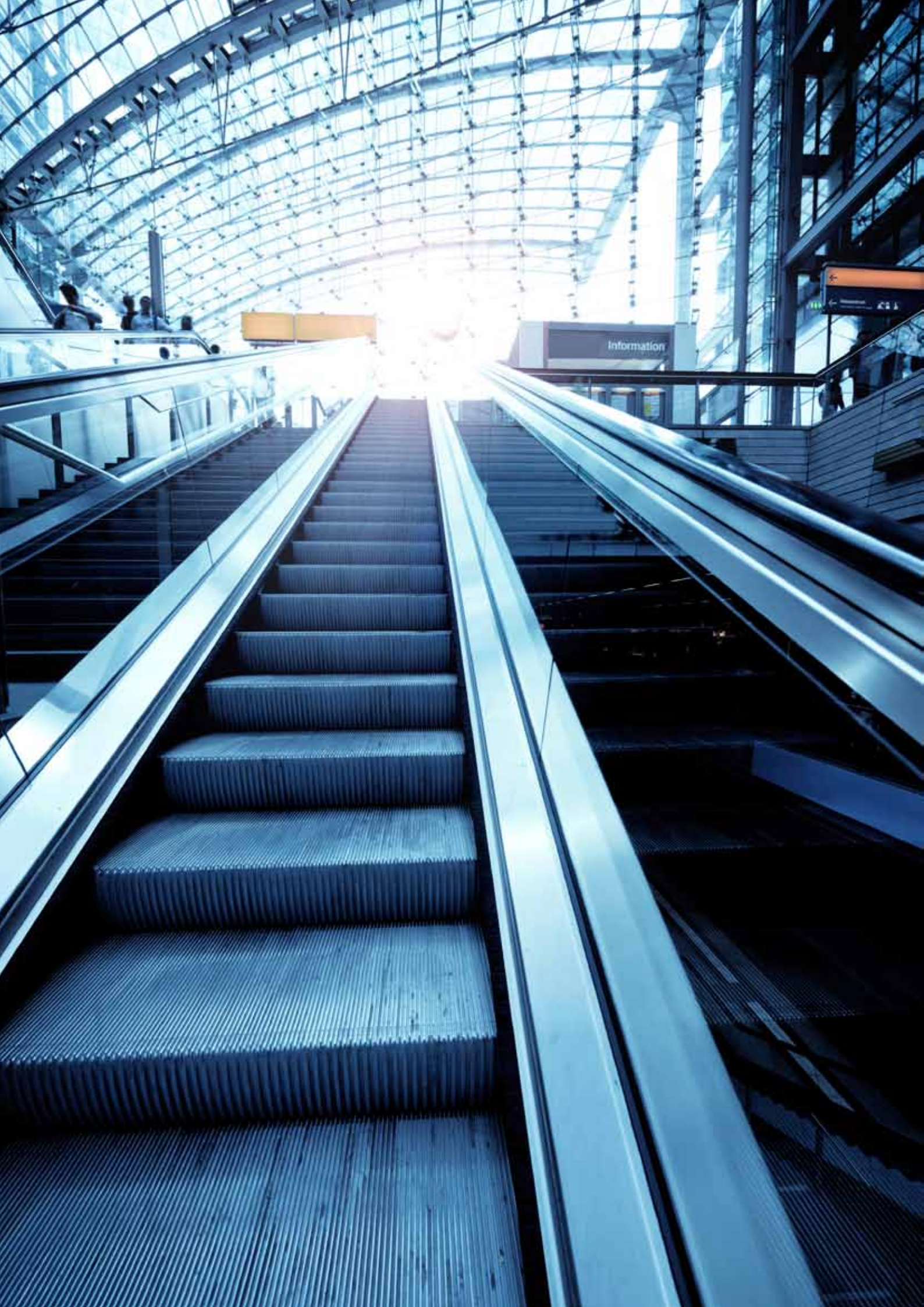
Terrorism manifests itself in a variety of ways and can be driven by diverse motivations, including religion and strong ethno-nationalist sentiments that lead to separatist terrorism. The activities of religiously inspired terrorists are often triggered by developments in other parts of the world. This trend was especially evident in 2012 with increasing numbers of radicalised EU citizens travelling to regions of conflict to engage in terrorist activities. There is growing awareness of the threat posed by these people, should they return to the European Union intent on committing acts of terrorism. In this respect, the developments in the Sahel region are of major interest to the security situation of the EU.

I take this opportunity to thank all Member States and Eurojust for their contributions, which are essential to the annual production of the TE-SAT. I would also like to express my gratitude to authorities in Colombia, Croatia, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America for their contributions. Finally, I would like to recognise the work of the members of the Advisory Board, consisting of the 'Troika' (EU Council Presidencies of Cyprus, Ireland and Lithuania), France, Spain, Eurojust, the EU Intelligence Analysis Centre (INTCEN) and the Office of the EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator. Their support throughout the year and their valuable contributions are an important part of the production of this, the 2013 edition of the TE-SAT.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Wainwright'.

Rob Wainwright
Director of Europol



KEY JUDGMENTS AND TRENDS

The terrorist threat in the EU remains strong and varied as indicated by an increase in the number of attacks. The terrorist threat in the EU remains diverse; there were 17 deaths as a result of terrorist activity of all types in 2012, a steep rise in comparison to the figure of two deaths reported last year¹. The majority of the fatalities were the result of two major terrorist incidents: one bomb attack at Burgas airport in Bulgaria and the three attacks committed by a solo terrorist in Toulouse and Montauban in France. There were no attacks attributed to ETA during 2012, continuing the general decrease from the previous year. However, terrorist attacks by Dissident Republican groups in Northern Ireland continued to feature and included the murder of a prison officer. The merger of a number of dissident republican factions in 2012 is of concern. Although al-Qaeda's organisational command and control may have been severely weakened in recent years, the threat from religiously inspired terrorism, especially to soft targets, remains a key issue for the security of the EU Member States and their interests abroad.

The situation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is significant for the terrorist threat in the EU.

Two years on from the 'Arab Spring' uprisings, the situation in North Africa remains unstable. Two attacks in Benghazi, Libya – one in June against the UK Ambassador and the other in September against the US Ambassador, which resulted in his murder – underline the threat. The volatile situation in Mali also requires significant attention, as it offers a new theatre that may appear an attractive destination for those seeking to engage in armed conflict in support of religiously inspired insurgents. These individuals may pose a threat on their return to the EU. There has been a rise in the number of kidnapping cases in the MENA region, especially in light of the developing conflict in Mali. EU citizens are often amongst the kidnap victims, detained as 'human shields' against the intervention of EU troops in the region. Kidnapping, in MENA and other African countries, also serves as a major fundraising tactic for groups associated with religiously inspired terrorism.

The current civil war in Syria has attracted a number of radicalised EU citizens.

In recent years, such individuals seeking to engage in either fighting or training in conflict zones have travelled to the Afghanistan/Pakistan region, Yemen or Somalia – all regions that are relatively difficult to access. However, in 2012 there was a distinct rise in the number of EU citizens travelling to Syria, in a number of cases fighting alongside groups associated with religiously inspired terrorism. Comparative ease of entry and robust facilitation networks offer these individuals a smoother path to the country. The full implications of increased participation of EU citizens are currently unclear but may have an impact on the future security situation in the EU.

An increased use of firearms has been observed across a variety of terrorist and extremist groups.

A number of firearms-related incidents occurred across the EU in 2012, the most prominent of which involved a religiously inspired solo terrorist, who shot and killed seven people. In the course of separate investigations, weapons and ammunition were also found with other religiously inspired cells in 2012. Furthermore, fatal and non-fatal shootings have been carried out by separatist terrorists and anarchists. Right-wing terrorists and violent extremists have also been found in possession of a significant amount of firearms and ammunition over the reporting period. The use of firearms by terrorists and violent extremists has increased in recent years. This modus operandi appears to be emerging across a range of ideologies and is of concern.

The current economic conditions in the EU do not appear to have had a significantly negative impact on the overall terrorism and violent extremism picture.

In the face of the continuing challenges of the economic situation and the associated governmental austerity measures, attacks by terrorists and violent extremists have not markedly increased since 2008. Although financial institutions, government buildings and officials have been targeted in some EU Member States in 2012, principally by violent left-wing and anarchist extremists, attacks and violent demonstrations appear to have been relatively sporadic. However, this does not preclude the potential for a future increase in similarly motivated offences.

¹ In 2011, two persons were killed as a result of terrorist attacks in the EU. In addition, 77 people died in the attacks carried out by Anders Breivik in Oslo (Norway).

- ▶ **In 2012, 17 people died**
as a result of terrorist attacks in the EU
- ▶ **219 terrorist attacks**
carried out in EU Member States
- ▶ **537 individuals arrested**
in the EU for terrorist related offences
- ▶ **Court proceedings for terrorism charges**
concluded in relation to a total of
400 individuals

1

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE EU IN 2012

1.1. Terrorist attacks and arrested suspects

In 2012, 17 people died as a result of terrorist attacks in the EU. Eight of the deaths were the result of attacks related to religiously inspired terrorism.

In total 219 terrorist attacks were carried out in seven EU Member States in 2012, an increase on the corresponding figure for 2011 by 26%.² In common with previous years, the majority of attacks occurred in France (125) and Spain (54). Most of these were related to separatist terrorism.



Religiously inspired terrorists carried out six attacks on EU territory in 2012; there were no such attacks in 2011.³ The number of attacks by left-wing and anarchist groups fell from 37 in 2011 to 18 in 2012.

On 18 July 2012, a remotely activated improvised explosive device (IED), which was hidden in a backpack, killed seven people at Burgas airport in Bulgaria. Five Israeli tourists, a Bulgarian national and the individual carrying the backpack lost their lives. In addition, a further 37 people were injured in the attack. Bulgarian investigations, aided by Europol and other international partners, revealed possible connections to Hezbollah, although at the time of writing the responsibility for the attack had not been determined definitively.

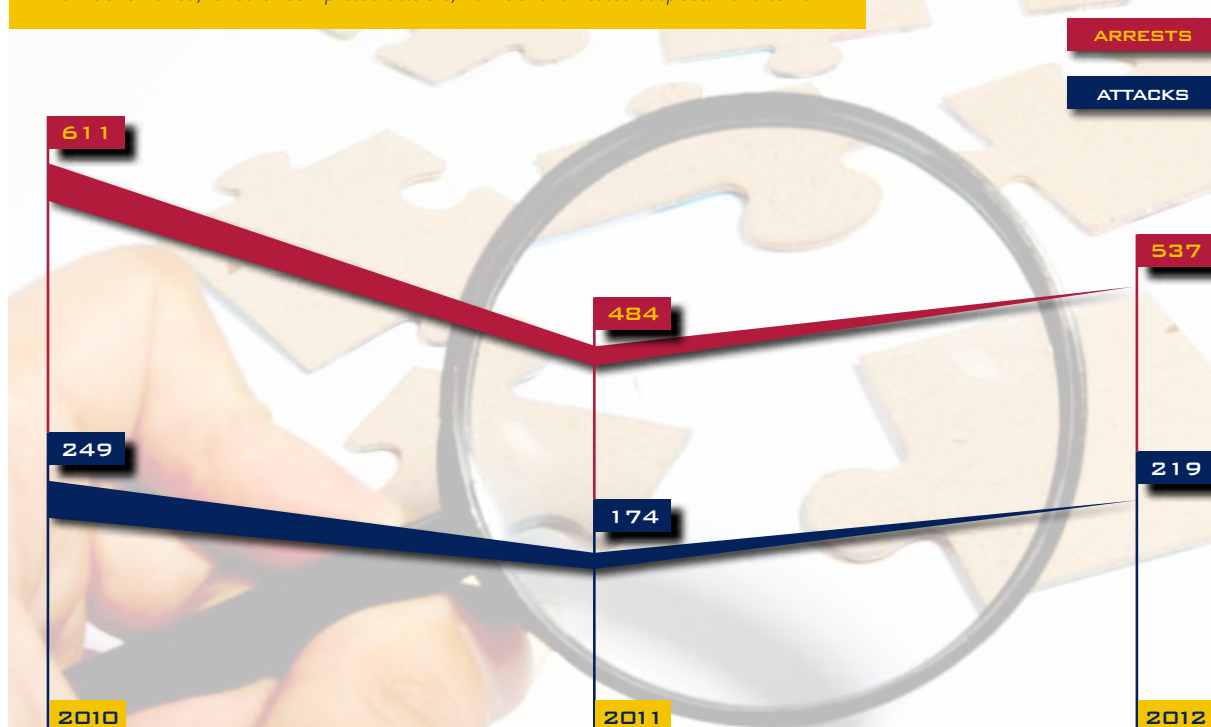
Although an IED was discovered at the main railway station in Bonn (Germany) in December 2012, the precise motivation behind the device remains unclear. This case does not therefore feature in the figures for this report.

² For an overview of all attacks per EU Member State and per affiliation, see Annex 1: Failed, foiled and completed attacks in 2012 per EU Member State and per affiliation.

³ The attack at Frankfurt Airport in March 2011, which killed 2 US military personnel, was not defined as terrorism according to German legislation.

Figure 1

Number of failed, foiled or completed attacks; number of arrested suspects 2010 to 2012



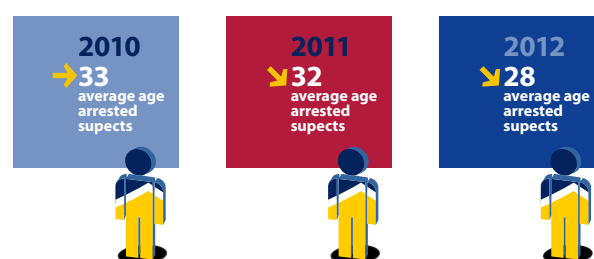
A total of 537 individuals were arrested for terrorism-related offences in 2012, a rise of 53 from last year. Most arrests occurred in France (186), the Republic of Ireland (66) and the Netherlands (62).⁴ Arrests in the UK increased from 62 to 84.⁵

Arrests related to religiously inspired terrorism increased from 122 to 159 in 2012. In France, the number of arrests in this category nearly doubled from 46 to 91.

Arrests linked to separatist terrorism continue to represent the greatest number in the EU and remain relatively stable at 257. The largest increase was recorded in the Netherlands as a result of one raid, during which 55 persons linked to the Partiya Karkeren Kurdistan (PKK, Kurdistan Workers' Party) were arrested.

The number of arrests related to right-wing and left-wing terrorism remains low in comparison to those for offences related to separatist and religiously inspired terrorism.

The rise in arrests for membership of a terrorist organisation, already reported in 2011, continued in 2012.



⁴ For an overview of all arrests per EU Member State and per affiliation, see Annex 2: Arrests in 2012 per EU Member State and per affiliation.

⁵ For the UK, figures represent the number of charges in 2012, to provide a more accurate comparison with the number of judicial arrests in the other Member States. However, at this stage, in the criminal justice process, it is not possible for the UK to assign an affiliation to individual cases.

1.2. Terrorist and violent extremist activities

Financing of terrorism

Tried and tested methodologies that provide profitable returns, such as social benefit fraud, credit card misuse, loan applications and defaults, continue to be exploited by terrorists.

Hostage taking outside the EU remains a significantly effective tactic for some terrorist groups with a view to financially supporting their operational activities.

Fundraising through extortion, especially within immigrant communities, also persists. Funds are collected under the cover of donations or charitable donations as well as through a form of illegal taxation. Donations remain an active part of facilitating travel and training for terrorist purposes. Such funding may continue once an individual has arrived in a region of conflict, providing direct support for related terrorism activities.

Organisations within the EU have been identified as providing logistical support to, for example, the PKK. The PKK has an active media wing, exploiting television, radio, websites and newspaper portals in various EU Member States. All provide propaganda and revenue opportunities.

PKK revenue streams include the so-called taxing of illegal drugs during shipment to Turkey prior to reaching the EU market, protection and 'arbitration taxes', human trafficking and cigarette smuggling. Law enforcement actions and intervention operations counter these threats.

Internet forums and the online sale of propaganda materials are fully exploited by terrorist groups and have served to increase fundraising revenues. Subscription to some Internet sites often allows the user access to more secure zones that would otherwise be unavailable. Seized encrypted media

offers investigators an insight into the complex money trail of terrorist financiers.

The trafficking and sale of the drug known as 'khat' reportedly offers a funding stream for the Somalia-based Harakat al-Shabab al-Mujahidin (HSM, Young Mujahidin Movement) terrorist organisation. In January 2012, the Dutch government decided to legislate against the trade and possession of khat and, subsequently, placed it on the list of illegal drugs in the Netherlands.

The 'White Power' music scene along with sales of paraphernalia (for example magazines, newspapers, CDs and DVDs) continues to provide revenue for right-wing extremist groups. It is evident that a variety of methods and techniques continue to be successfully used by terrorists and violent extremists to fund travel, recruitment, training and other activities.

Explosives

In contrast to previous years, in 2012 terrorists made use of firearms and incendiary devices with greater frequency than improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The reduction in use of IEDs may be the result of law enforcement activities to impede terrorists' access to explosives.

Nevertheless, explosives and chemical precursors for the production of home-made explosives (HMEs), and suspects in possession of them, are regularly identified during the course of counter-terrorism operations. Furthermore, instruction manuals for the production of HMEs and IEDs were also found during investigations in 2012.

Separatist terrorists in France and Spain continue to use IEDs as their preferred method for carrying out attacks. In December 2012, a number of IEDs were planted in Corsica



(France) targeting secondary residences. In Spain, multiple IEDs and improvised incendiary devices (IIDs), mainly targeting infrastructure, were also used, although the lethal nature of these devices diminished compared with previous years due to the use of smaller charges.

In previous years, left-wing terrorists carried out coordinated campaigns using IEDs aiming at multiple targets in different EU Member States. Several law enforcement operations in the EU, which led to the arrest of key members of these terrorist organisations, may have reduced their capability to plan and execute such attacks. During 2012, the use of flammable liquids and firearms was predominant in left-wing terrorist acts, with a small number of IEDs mainly targeting official buildings but not individuals.

The majority of IEDs used had a low level of sophistication and included pipe bombs and mixed explosive-incendiary devices using black powder and gas canisters. Most of the devices analysed by Europol incorporated rudimentary components such as mechanical timers and home-made initiators.

Whereas some thwarted plots may not be considered terrorist offences under national legislation, the procurement of chemical precursors for the production of HMEs continues to be a threat to the security of EU citizens. Terrorist attacks were thwarted in Spain in October 2012, when about 150 kg of chemical precursors were seized; and in Poland in November, when a substantial amount of chemical precursors were found. Approximately 50 kg of chemical precursors that could have potentially been used for the production of HMEs were also seized in Finland. Most of the chemical precursors seized in these and other police operations are listed in Regulation (EU) No 98/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the marketing and use of explosives precursors of 15 January 2013.

Communication

The Internet remains an essential communication platform for terrorist organisations and their sympathisers, enabling increasingly wide-spread access, anonymity and connection to a global audience that can be addressed in a targeted way.

There are only a limited number of online forums responsible for a substantial part of the distribution of terrorist propaganda on the Internet. In the case of religiously inspired terrorism, for example, the number of important forums is assessed as ranging from 10 to 20. Such forums can have thousands of members, many of whom will further promulgate messages to other forums with no apparent terrorist affiliation. In addition, self-proclaimed media outlets edit, translate and re-publish terrorist content issued by foreign terrorist groups. Some terrorist organisations have designated particular forums or media outlets as their official communication channels.

The rapid development of social media on the Internet has provided new opportunities for instant and personalised access to supporters as well as potential recruits for terrorist groups. When terrorist Internet forums are targeted by hacker attacks, as happened with religiously inspired terrorist forums several times in 2012, propagandists rely on social media or video sharing sites to continue publishing their messages.

For terrorist groups located outside the EU, social media have the added advantage of enabling the user to instantly report new developments from the area in real time. However, this involves bypassing established lines of information communication from trusted media outlets and forum members, which served as a means to authenticate the message. As a result terrorist groups have, on occasions, been forced to deny reports published by others in their name.

Violent right-wing extremists make extensive use of social media for networking purposes. Social media are used, amongst other things, to create groups and to share links to right-wing extremist websites or professionally produced videos on Internet sharing platforms. Moreover, such networks can be used for the purpose of recruiting and they allow users to remain anonymous if desired. Certain online campaigns that have been initiated may not appear, on the face of it, to be of a right-wing extremist nature. They do however aim to arouse the interest and curiosity of vulnerable young individuals.

1.3. Convictions and penalties⁶

In 2012, 149 concluded court proceedings on terrorism-related charges were reported by 13 EU Member States.⁷ This constitutes a slight decrease compared to 2011. The court cases concluded in 2012 referred to acts committed in a period of time starting as early as the 1970s and ending in 2012.

A total of 400 individuals were tried in these reported court proceedings concluded in 2012. Eighteen individuals were brought to court in several proceedings for different offences. Furthermore, in Denmark and France legal entities were also found guilty of terrorist offences. The total number of verdicts pronounced in 2012 – towards individuals and entities – amounts to 437.

Figure 3

Number of individuals in concluded court proceedings in 2010, 2011 and 2012, as reported to Eurojust⁸



As in previous years, Spain is the Member State with the highest number of individuals in court proceedings for terrorist offences concluded in 2012. Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy and the UK saw an increase as compared to 2011, while the Netherlands saw a decrease. In 2012, for the first time the Czech Republic reported a terrorism-related court decision.

In a court proceeding in Denmark, the Copenhagen City Court found ROJ TV A/S and Mesopotamia Broadcast A/S METV guilty of promoting a terrorist organisation and sentenced each to 40 day fines of DKK 65 000 (EUR 8 700). Both ROJ TV and Mesopotamia Broadcast were prosecuted for

repeatedly releasing PKK-related TV programmes, thereby functioning as a mouthpiece for the PKK, as well as disseminating invitations to join the organisation and participate in its terrorist activities, while mentioning PKK and its terrorist activities in a glorifying manner. In connection with the sentencing, the court emphasised the length of the period, during which the acts were carried out, the frequency and dissemination of the acts, the detailed planning, and the way in which the TV station attempted to appear as independent, while being funded and influenced by the PKK. The decision was appealed to the High Court.

Similar to previous years, the majority of verdicts reported in 2012 relate to separatist terrorism. Again, Spanish courts pronounced the highest number of verdicts in separatist terrorism cases in 2012, followed by France. All court decisions reported by Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Sweden concern religiously inspired terrorism, while the majority of verdicts in relation to left-wing terrorism were rendered in France. No concluded court proceedings on right-wing terrorism were reported to Eurojust in 2012.

In June 2012, a Belgian court rendered a decision concerning five persons charged with terrorism-related offences. Some of them managed websites that were used for recruiting people for armed struggle. A link to al-Qaeda appeared from the content of these websites. In its decision, the court ruled that the offence of participating in the criminal activities of a terrorist group did not have to consist of actually committing a terrorist offence. The existence of a long-lasting organisation was inferred from the defendants' role in spreading propaganda promoting terrorist views on Internet forums, which also facilitated the recruitment of volunteers to support the terrorist group. The court considered that the use of websites for such purposes constituted a concrete and tangible act of participation in the activities of a terrorist group. Four of the accused were convicted of terrorism-related offences, either solely of leadership or participation in the activities of a terrorist group, or of these crimes in combination with other crimes charged. One defendant was acquitted. Two other individuals were found guilty of offences not related to terrorism. An appeal was submitted and the decision of the court is expected in 2013.

In 2012 acquittals constituted 30% of all the verdicts pronounced for terrorist offences. The figure is similar to that of 2011. Of the 50 female defendants in the reported court proceedings concluded in 2012, 14 were completely acquitted and one was acquitted in one proceeding and convicted in another.

Six of the 13 EU Member States with reported court decisions on terrorism cases in 2012 have a full conviction rate. Germany and the Netherlands reported no acquittals in 2010, 2011 and 2012. As in previous years, France had mostly successful prosecutions.

⁶ Please refer to Annex 3: Convictions and penalties (Eurojust) for additional information and clarification on the numbers mentioned in this section.

⁷ The data for Belgium includes three court proceedings in which three individuals were convicted of violation of anti-racism and/or anti-discrimination legislation. One of the individuals was prosecuted in two of the proceedings. The data provided by the UK covers England, Scotland and Wales and does not include data for Northern Ireland. The data for the UK in 2012 refers solely to convictions. At the time of writing, Eurojust had received no contributions on terrorism-related court decisions from the Republic of Ireland. Four other Member States, with possibly no terrorism-related court decisions, did not confirm the absence of relevant verdicts.

⁸ The data for the previous years corresponds to the data reported in the respective TE-SAT reports.

The reported verdicts in relation to religiously inspired terrorism have the highest acquittal rate (35%), which is dissimilar to previous years, in which the highest acquittal rate was registered for separatist terrorism verdicts. In 2012 left-wing terrorism verdicts included 32% acquittals, followed by separatist terrorism with an acquittal rate of 29%.

In certain cases, the acquittal rates can be considered in the general context of preventive and protective efforts put in place by the EU Member States. Conspiracy to commit terrorist activities and preparatory acts, such as recruitment, training and public provocation, are criminalised and prosecuted to prevent terrorist attacks from occurring.

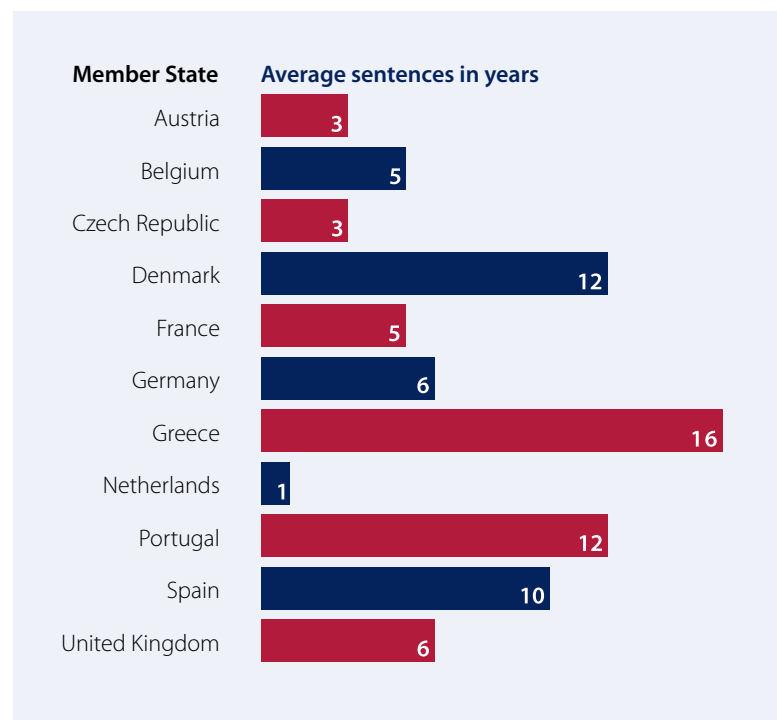
The average prison sentence imposed in 2012 in Europe for acts of terrorism was approximately eight years, equal to that in 2011. The severity of prison sentences in 2012 ranged from two months to life imprisonment.⁹

The highest average prison sentence in 2012 was reported in Greece, where several sentences of up to 34 years' imprisonment for left-wing terrorist offences were handed down. In Spain and France, the average penalty decreased compared to 2011, while in Germany it increased.

In 2012 the Spanish Audiencia Nacional convicted two individuals of two counts of assassination, 51 counts of intended assassination and terrorist ravage, and sentenced them to 843 years' imprisonment each. The two were prosecuted as authors of an attack carried out in August 2002, which targeted the Guardia Civil barracks in Santa Pola, resulting in two deaths and 51 people injured, as well as considerable material damage. Several days later the attack was claimed by Euskadi ta Askatasuna (ETA, Basque Fatherland and Liberty) in a message to the Gara newspaper. The two men had previously been convicted in France for participation in an armed group in France and were extradited to Spain in 2008 and 2009, respectively. The court also ordered that they should pay compensation to the state and those affected by the attack. The decision became final in June 2012. In another proceeding in May 2012, the two suspects were found guilty of placing explosives and causing damage in 2002, and sentenced to six and a half years' imprisonment each.

Figure 4

Average sentences (excluding non-prison penalties) in 2012 as reported to Eurojust¹⁰



⁹ In some EU Member States, suspended sentences were imposed in the relevant court proceedings. These have also been included in the numbers in Figure 4. In some cases a pecuniary penalty was imposed as the only penalty or in combination with a prison term or with community service. Furthermore, on certain occasions prison terms were pronounced as an alternative to community service or pecuniary penalties. In the UK, some sentences ordering imprisonment for public protection were handed down as well. These have been included in the overview with the indicated minimum term to be served. In some cases, in addition to imprisonment, convicted individuals were expelled from the country (Denmark) or banned from entering national territory (France) upon completion of the prison term, or restrictions on their civil rights were imposed on them (Belgium, Spain).

¹⁰ In Spain, for example, cumulative sentences of hundreds of years were given for separatist terrorism offences. For the purpose of the overview, sentences exceeding 40 years and life sentences have been counted as 40 years.

RELIGIOUSLY INSPIRED TERRORISM

- ▶ **8 people lost their lives** as a result of attacks related to religiously inspired terrorism **in 2012**¹
- ▶ Religiously inspired terrorists carried out **6 attacks** on EU territory **in 2012** compared to **0 attacks** defined as terrorism **in 2011**²
- ▶ **Arrests** related to religiously inspired terrorism increased from **122 in 2011 to 159 in 2012**
- ▶ EU citizens **increasingly targeted for kidnapping** by terrorist groups
- ▶ **EU nationals continue to travel** to regions such as the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Afghanistan, Pakistan and Somalia **for terrorist purposes**

¹ A further seven people were killed as a result of the terrorist attack at Burgas (Bulgaria) airport. Although Hezbollah is suspected of carrying out the attack, the responsibility was not determined definitively at the time of writing.

² The attack at Frankfurt Airport in March 2011, which killed 2 US military personnel, was not defined as terrorism according to German legislation.

2

RELIGIOUSLY INSPIRED TERRORISM

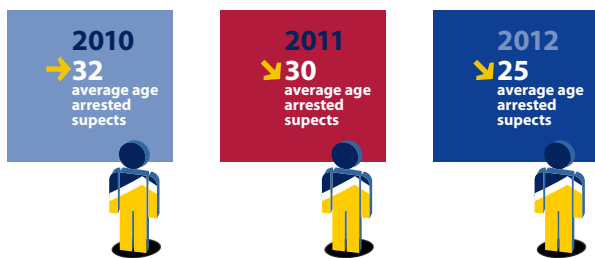
2.1. Terrorist attacks and arrested suspects

The diverse range of threats from religiously motivated terrorism was evidenced by several attacks committed in the EU in 2012. The three related attacks committed by Mohammed Merah, which killed seven people between 11 and 19 March in Toulouse and Montauban (France), illustrate different dimensions of the threat: a solo terrorist aided by other actors, having received terrorist training in the Afghanistan/Pakistan region.¹¹ Of

special interest is Merah's use of firearms rather than explosives, mirroring other recent incidents with similar modus operandi, including the 2011 Frankfurt (Germany) airport shooting and the 2011 US embassy shooting in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

In October 2012, a home-grown terrorist group responsible for a grenade attack against a kosher grocery in Paris (France) was dismantled whilst in the planning stages of further attacks against Jewish targets. All members of the group were born in France and had been radicalised on the Internet. Most were converts to Islam. Their leader, who had several issues of the *Inspire* magazine, which is associated with al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and a leaflet justifying the actions of Mohammed Merah in his possession, died in an armed confrontation with police officers attempting to arrest him.

In March 2012, the murder of the imam of a Shi'i mosque in Brussels (Belgium) during an arson attack on the property may have been a consequence of tensions between Shi'is and Sunnis, exacerbated by the Syrian conflict. However, no other significant incidents of this nature inside the EU were reported to Europol.



¹¹ Solo terrorist refers to an individual executing acts of terrorism without others but who is actively supported and assisted by a wider terrorist organisation.

At the beginning of August 2012, Spanish security forces arrested three individuals on suspicion of intending to commit a terrorist attack in the EU. The suspects, two Russian citizens – one of Dagestani and the other of Chechen origin – and a Turkish national, had links to Afghani-Pakistani networks associated with al-Qaeda.



In 2012 there were a number of arrests across the EU involving persons suspected of being home-grown terrorists. Terrorist propaganda material as well as weapons and components for constructing improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were regularly recovered in law enforcement operations, including during an arrest by the Dutch police in Amsterdam in March 2012, in which a suspect had also been searching the Internet for manuals on how to make explosives. In April 2012, three males of Jordanian, Turkish and Egyptian origin were arrested in Denmark for weapons possession and

on suspicion of plotting a terrorist attack. The three were provisionally charged with illegal possession of automatic weapons and related ammunition, but are also suspected of having been involved in the preparation of a terrorist act.

The combination of radicalised individuals resident in EU Member States with intent to commit attacks, and their accessing of terrorist literature, was evidenced in April 2012, when four males of Bangladeshi and Pakistani origin were arrested in the UK. The subjects were suspected of plotting attacks in the UK and were subsequently charged with engaging in conduct in preparation of acts of terrorism. Several of the suspects were additionally charged with possession of extremist material. In early March 2013, the defendants pleaded guilty to engaging in conduct in preparation of acts of terrorism and will be sentenced later in the year.

At least one such apparent home-grown religiously inspired plot may have been motivated by the activities of an English nationalist group. In July 2012, six people were arrested and subsequently charged with engaging in conduct in preparation of acts of terrorism. They are all suspected of plotting an attack in South Yorkshire.

2.2. Terrorist and violent extremist activities

Logistics and facilitation

In 2012, several facilitation networks in the EU enabling the transfer of individuals to conflict zones, in particular Syria and Somalia, were disrupted. Member States' law enforcement authorities investigated several cases of terrorist travel to East Africa, financing and propaganda activities related to Harakat al-Shabab al-Mujahidin (HSM, Young Mujahidin Movement). Investigations and arrests in Finland, Switzerland and the UK concerned recruitment and financing for HSM through differing means including trafficking in human beings and international drug trafficking. Furthermore, there were investigations into several websites, used by HSM supporters for propaganda purposes. Two networks facilitating the transfer of potential fighters from Europe to Syria and Somalia were also dismantled, resulting in a number of arrests in Belgium in 2012.

In September 2012, German police arrested a suspected member of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) in Bonn on suspicion of fundraising and recruiting volunteers for the group, as well as gathering information on the German political situation for dissemination to the group's propaganda outlet in Waziristan (Pakistan).

In 2012 radical Muslim groups using a name composed of 'Sharia4' and the name of a country or region, such as Sharia4Belgium and Sharia4Holland, received widespread

public attention due to their controversial demonstrations and statements. They have been careful not to incite their supporters to commit acts of terrorism. Nevertheless, they praise terrorist groups and present perpetrators of terrorist attacks as heroes. Through such activities, the Sharia4 groups contribute to spreading a highly intolerant interpretation of Islam, including the support of violent acts in the name of religion, in the public sphere, thereby exposing vulnerable individuals to radical ideas. Individual members of these groups, which actively seek to provoke non-Muslim sections of the public, violently resisted or attacked law enforcement forces in some Member States in 2012. There are indications that the ideology spread by Sharia4Belgium and other groups has contributed to the radicalisation and engagement of EU citizens in the Syrian conflict.

Internet propaganda and recruitment

In 2012 a series of arrests were made of extremist users of the Internet. Predominant features of these individuals are their exceptional computer skills, multiple online user aliases, the use of varying social networking sites for terrorist purposes and, frequently, the founding or management of terrorist forums. The majority continue to engage in the dissemination of propaganda or instructional information and maintain private chat rooms to conduct online meetings with others.

Whilst some of these individuals remain active primarily in on-line environments, a number have transitioned towards preparing acts of terrorism beyond the confines of the Internet.

One such example was the arrest, in March 2012, of a 20-year-old Moroccan national in Italy on suspicion of plotting an attack against a synagogue in Milan. The subject had been particularly active on the Internet, using at least eight social media profiles accessible only through a complex series of controls that he had created. He also used more than 10 separate email addresses. He instructed users to avoid posting extreme videos and religious songs and to restrict themselves to discussing weapons and explosives. Another example occurred in April, when an Italian citizen (a convert to Islam), who had been actively engaged in spreading terrorist propaganda via the Internet as well as documents on training in the use of weapons and explosives, was arrested. Neither of these individuals belonged to any structured organisation, they merely shared the same ideology.

Most suspects associated with Internet activity were below the age of 30. However, a 51-year-old Jordanian-born Saudi

national, arrested in March 2012 by Spanish police for administering a terrorist forum, is a noteworthy exception. The individual was responsible for various Internet platforms dedicated to supporting differing terrorist activities including the selection, indoctrination, recruitment and transfer of militants to conflict areas. He was also managing several Internet chat rooms, in which he provided terrorist content, including statements, manuals and training courses on terrorism for other users.

A similar function was performed by a French national arrested in Toulon in July 2012. This individual acted as an administrator of a high-profile website and was an intermediary for providing information and relaying instructions amongst terrorist groups in regions including Yemen, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Despite the death of its principal authors in 2011, the AQAP-associated *Inspire* magazine continues to be a recurring tool inciting extremists to conduct attacks in the EU and elsewhere. Two issues of *Inspire* were released in 2012.



2.3. Terrorist situation outside the EU

Kidnappings

One of the most pertinent overseas threats to EU Member States, especially France, Italy and Spain, continues to emanate from al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). While it is judged that the group does not have sufficient organisational capability to carry out a large-scale attack in the EU, it remains able to target EU interests in the Maghreb and Sahel regions. EU citizens are at particular risk of kidnapping by AQIM throughout the Sahel region. Some victims continue to endure prolonged periods of captivity. By the end of 2012, the group continued to hold captive six French nationals, one Dutch, one Swede and one Briton in northern Mali, from kidnappings in 2010 and 2011. AQIM officially announced, on two occasions, threats to kill its French captives, should France intervene militarily in northern Mali.

The Mouvement pour l'Unité et le Jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest (MUJAO, Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa) was another group responsible for the kidnapping and detention of French, Italian and Spanish nationals. MUJAO also announced its intention to destroy French strategic interests, especially in Niger, Senegal and the Ivory Coast.

The kidnappings are assessed to be motivated by the terrorist group's desire to acquire funding through ransom payments for the release of hostages, allowing the group to acquire heavy weapons and recruit fighters from the poor population of northern Mali.

In Nigeria, nationals from France, Germany, Italy and the UK were kidnapped by religiously inspired groups in 2012. In March, a Briton and an Italian were killed in northwest Nigeria by a group linked to Ansar al-Muslimin fi Bilad al-Sudan (Supporters of Muslims in Sub-Saharan Africa), also known as Ansaru, during a special forces raid. Both had been abducted in 2011. In December, a French engineer was kidnapped in Rimi in northern Nigeria during a well-planned operation. This kidnapping was also claimed by Ansaru. Ansaru split in 2012 from Jama'at Ahl al-Sunna lil-Da'wa wal-Jihad (Group of the Sunnis for Preaching and Jihad), better known as Boko Haram, citing disapproval of Boko Haram's targeting of Nigerian civilians. Both groups maintain the shared goal of enforcing Islamic law throughout the coun-



try and have conducted kidnappings of Western citizens involved in construction projects in northern Nigeria.

There were three instances of Swiss nationals being kidnapped by terrorists in 2012, occurring in Mali, the Philippines and Yemen. Two of these victims remained in captivity at the time of writing. Two Spanish citizens working for the Spanish branch of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF, Doctors without Borders), who were kidnapped in Kenya in late 2011, were still in the hands of their captors, who are believed to be, or involved with, the Somali organisation HSM. In December 2012, two Finnish and one Austrian citizen were kidnapped by an unidentified armed group in the Yemeni capital Sana'a. Although no claims of responsibility or ransom demand had emerged at the time of writing, it cannot be excluded that elements associated with AQAP were involved in the kidnapping.

Two journalists – a Dutch and a British national – were abducted by militants in Syria in July 2012. Both were shot and wounded during an attempted escape before being liberated by members of the Free Syrian Army after several days in captivity. An investigation into this abduction was initiated in the Netherlands and the UK, as a result of which two people were arrested in the UK in autumn 2012.

Developments in MENA countries

The instability in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) post 'Arab Spring' continues to be exploited by extremist groups, which have capitalised on the profusion of unsecured weapons and reduced security levels in some states in order to consolidate their presence.

Libya continues to be highly unstable. The attack on the convoy carrying the UK Ambassador to Libya in Benghazi in June 2012, using rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire, and the death of the US Ambassador to Libya in a terrorist attack on the US consulate in Benghazi in September 2012, illustrate that the national government has difficulties in controlling armed groups in the country. These two incidents have been widely hailed as examples to follow by terrorist groups in other countries. At present, however, terrorist groups in these countries primarily pose a threat to EU interests in the region, rather than to the territory of the EU.

Members of the Millatu Ibrahim group – proscribed in Germany in 2012 – emigrated from Europe to relocate in Egypt and Libya, from where they have disseminated messages in German, inciting acts of terrorism. Amongst these persons are well-known and influential Muslim converts and propagandists.¹²

In a number of countries, protests have turned violent or have escalated into full-blown conflict as in the case of Syria. In 2011 and 2012, Yemen faced a rapid deterioration of public order after popular protests against President Ali Abdullah Salih's rule. This allowed AQAP to occupy a large territory in the south of the country in May 2011, which it was able to maintain until June 2012.

AQAP continues to perpetrate terrorist attacks in Yemen. In addition, in April 2012, the group attempted to repeat its 2009 failed attack against aviation using an IED concealed in underwear. This attempt underlined the continued intent and capability of the group to carry out external operations aimed at Western interests. It also demonstrated AQAP's commitment to developing more sophisticated IEDs intended to thwart security measures. The presence of a number of foreign fighters in Yemen provides AQAP with potential avenues to project the threat to Western countries.

The turmoil in Syria and Yemen, and the uncertain future political landscape in Egypt and Libya, have had significant effects on how terrorist groups present their struggle and justify their violent actions, in particular those committed to the idea of a global 'jihad' as promoted by al-Qaeda and its affiliates. The emergence of Islamist political groups with primarily local agendas has called into question al-Qaeda's dogma of global confrontation. In Iraq, the local al-Qaeda affiliate lost popular support due to repeated attacks on the population. There and in other countries, the al-Qaeda brand is seen more and more in a negative light. Some terrorist groups have reacted by avoiding references to al-Qaeda. In Yemen, for example, AQAP created a new brand, Ansar al-Shari'a, in an effort to establish an administration and garner local support. Likewise, Jabhat al-Nusra, a group fighting in Syria that has strong links to the al-Qaeda affiliate in Iraq, the Islamic State in Iraq, stressed the local nature of its struggle and deliberately omitted the ideology and brand of al-Qaeda and its global 'jihad'. Ansar al-Din in Mali did not openly admit its purported alliance with AQIM but emphasised its efforts to provide much-needed services for the population and restore justice and security through the imposition of Islamic law.

With regard to recruitment of EU citizens and residents, these new images, which emphasise local over global issues, may significantly increase the attractiveness of combat zones and terrorist groups that have shed their image of clandestine guerrilla groups of dubious credentials. This reorientation may have helped to increase the flows of potential fighters relocating to combat zones to join fighting groups.

¹² 'Deutsche Salafisten fliehen nach Ägypten', Die Welt, 10 August 2012.



Foreign fighters in conflict zones

The senior leadership of al-Qaeda is judged to have been considerably weakened following the elimination of senior figures and affiliated leaders in the Afghanistan/Pakistan region. Consequently, it has a reduced ability to initiate and direct attacks. Nevertheless, terrorists trained in the area continue to be intermittently dispatched to commit attacks inside Europe.

Although 2012 saw an increasing number of EU 'jihadists' divert from the Afghanistan/Pakistan region to other conflict zones, the area remains an important location for terrorist recruits from the EU. For example, two Dutch citizens connected to radical networks in The Hague returned home in January 2012, having been detained in Pakistan since April 2011 on charges of illegal immigration. Similar cases were reported in France, Germany and the UK. Some citizens of EU Member States and other European countries were killed in the region in 2012, including a terrorist affiliated with al-Qaeda who had lived in Switzerland for several years and was reportedly killed by a drone attack. A number of high profile EU nationals remain in the region broadcasting propaganda and incitement messages.

Syria emerged as the destination of choice for foreign fighters in 2012. A number of EU nationals were arrested in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the UK related to travelling to or returning from Syria. For example, in November 2012, three individuals were arrested in the Netherlands intending to travel to Syria. During house searches in Rotterdam, knives, a sword, a crossbow, farewell letters, packed backpacks and terrorist propaganda were recovered. A number of Belgian residents, mostly aged between 18 and 24, intended to leave, actually left and successfully travelled to Syria during 2012. Dutch, Finnish and Swedish authorities also identified a number of individuals who had already travelled or attempted to travel to Syria. A number of EU nationals were reportedly killed whilst fighting in Syria in 2012. Others have remained in Syria and in some instances they were barred from returning to the EU. Returning fighters may incite EU volunteers to join the armed struggle in Syria. In addition, these individuals have the potential to utilise their training, combat experience, knowledge and contacts for terrorist activities inside the EU. However, there was no concrete evidence of plans for any attacks against the EU at the time of writing.

Somalia witnessed an incipient, yet fragile consolidation of its national state structures in 2012, with the formation of a constituent assembly and the election of a new president. The military containment of HSM, which publicly pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda in February 2012, continued. By the end of the year, it had been forced to abandon all major cities and retreat to its rural strongholds. There is a consequent risk of veteran fighters formerly associated with HSM conducting autonomous attacks in the region or relocating to other destinations. The movement tried to compensate its setbacks with an increasing propaganda output praising its military successes.

The appeal of Somalia as a destination for foreign fighters is judged to be less than that of Syria. Nevertheless, a number of EU nationals have been detected in the region and are believed to be affiliated with al-Qaeda or HSM. In 2012 some of these individuals left Somalia for neighbouring Kenya, seeking either to transit the country or to support terrorist attacks. The terrorist threat posed to Kenya increased in 2012, evidenced by a number of disrupted attack plots and fatal grenade attacks. One Belgian national, one German national and one Swiss resident of Jordanian origin were detained in the region for terrorism-related offences. The Belgian and German subjects were returned to their home countries and arrested by national authorities. The Swiss resident was barred from returning to Switzerland. A British national is currently on trial in Kenya for terrorism offences. Other European nationals, including a person connected to one of the perpetrators of the 2005 London bombings, have been

identified in the region. Two brothers, Danish nationals of Somali origin who lived in Denmark for 16 years, were arrested by the Danish authorities in May 2012 on suspicion of preparing a terrorist attack. One of the suspects purportedly attended a training camp in Somalia organised by HSM.

A small number of EU citizens travelled to West Africa in 2012 to join terrorist groups in northern Mali. Military gains by rebel Tuareg groups in the northern desert spaces of Mali in early 2012, and a subsequent military coup in the capital Bamako, were exploited by a loose alliance of AQIM, MUJAO and Ansar al-Din, who seized significant population centres in cooperation with the secular Tuareg secessionist Mouvement National de Libération de l'Azawad (MNLA, National Liberation Movement of Azawad). After the collapse of the alliance, the MNLA was marginalised, and by the end of 2012 northern Mali was largely under the control of AQIM and its allies. A number of French nationals of African origin were arrested either in territory controlled by the Malian government or in neighbouring states. A British national was deported from Mauritania after attempting to travel to rebel-controlled Timbuktu. A number of other Member States have expressed concern that their nationals may also be leaving for Mali to join the fighting there. The international military intervention in Mali, which started in early 2013, may attract further potential fighters from the EU.





ETHNO-NATIONALIST AND SEPARATIST TERRORISM

- ▶ **2 persons were killed** in separatist terrorist attacks **in 2012**, including a prison officer in Northern Ireland
- ▶ **167 attacks** were carried out
- ▶ **257 individuals were arrested** for offences related to ethno-nationalist and separatist terrorism **in EU Member States**
- ▶ **Arrest numbers** continued to decrease in Spain: from **104 in 2010**, to **41 in 2011**, to **25 in 2012**
- ▶ **Dissident Republican groups continued to target** police officers, soldiers and prison officers **in Northern Ireland**

ETHNO-NATIONALIST AND SEPARATIST TERRORISM

ETA/Segi and Resistência Galega

In Spain, the ceasefire announced by Euskadi ta Askatasuna (ETA, Basque Fatherland and Liberty) on 20 October 2011 held. In 2012 the group carried out no terrorist attacks. Counter-terrorist activity, at national and international level, continued in 2012 and resulted in a number of arrests.

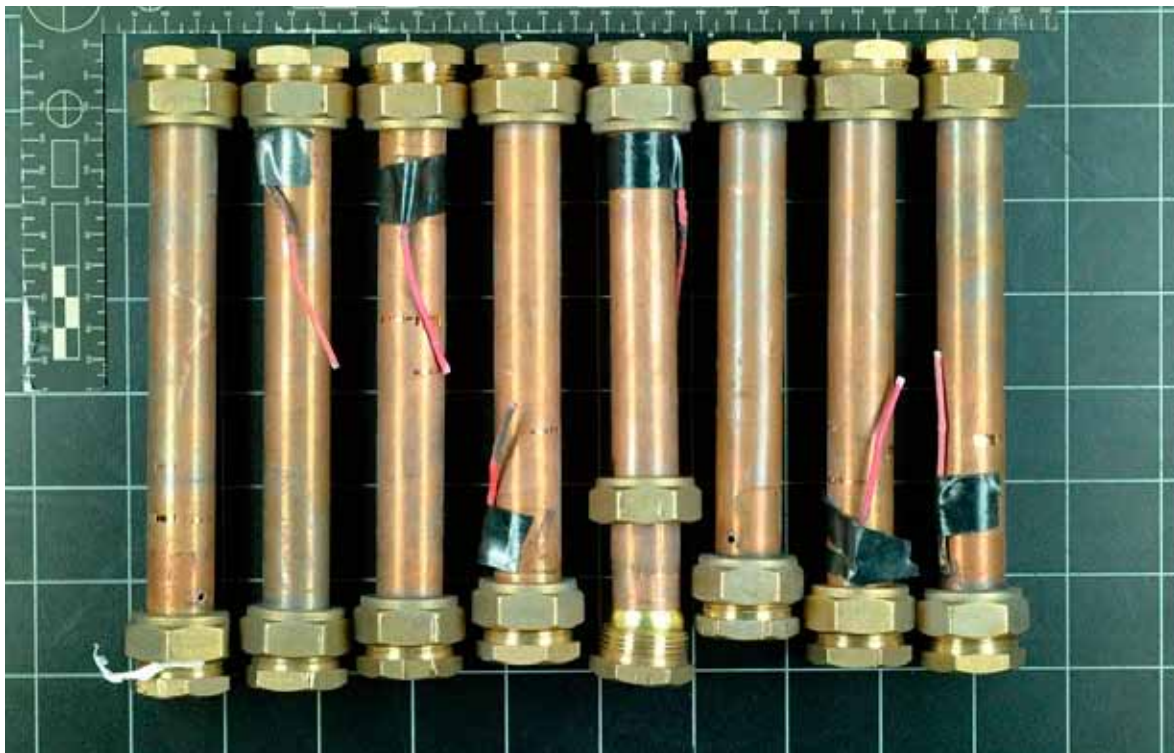
The extortion of businessmen and women, through the demand of the 'revolutionary tax' in the Spanish Basque region and Navarre, appears to have ceased since 2010. Nevertheless, ETA reasserted that it will not disband, and it is believed that the group maintains its logistical activities and continues to function as a clandestine organisation.

With regard to street violence, the number of attacks carried out by members and sympathisers of Segi (a banned youth organisation associated with ETA), increased – motivated by discontentment with the evolution of the political situation in the Basque region. These attacks, utilising mostly home-made explosives (HMEs) and improvised incendiary devices (IIDs), caused only material damage and did not succeed in jeopardising the peaceful situation in the Basque country.

ETA issued five communiqués in 2012. It is assessed that they were released in order to maintain the group's pres-

ence on the political stage. The latest statement stipulated ETA's aspiration for a 'technical negotiation' with Spanish and French governments on the disarmament of the organisation; the unification of its prisoners in Basque penitentiaries, followed by their amnesty; an agreement on the return of fugitive members; and the removal of the Spanish police and armed forces from the Basque region and Navarre. The group has made similar announcements in the past. Of concern is that the most radical sectors of ETA may seek to resume terrorist activities, should they fail to achieve their political objectives.

Resistência Galega (RG) continued to carry out terrorist attacks in Galicia in 2012, in volumes similar to 2011, mainly using improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and IIDs. The attacks can be divided into two different types: those perpetrated by RG itself and those by groupings or individuals that are ideologically affiliated to RG but are not group members. The attacks caused minor property damage, mainly targeting the premises of political parties and state infrastructure. Counterterrorist activity against RG over recent years seems to have significantly reduced the operational capabilities of the terrorist group. RG restricts its activities to the Spanish region of Galicia.



Dissident Republican groups

A small number of Dissident Republican (DR) groups in Northern Ireland (UK) aim to destabilise the peace process established in 1998 under the Good Friday Agreement, which led to a power sharing executive in Northern Ireland. These include the Real Irish Republican Army (RIRA), Óglaigh na hÉireann (ONH, Warriors of Ireland) and the Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA). The primary targets for these terrorists are police officers, soldiers and prison officers. A majority of attacks have involved the use of crude, but potentially lethal IEDs. There were also a number of more sophisticated attacks. In November 2012, a fatal attack took place in which the victim was a prison officer.

The number of attacks attributed to DR groups in 2012 was similar to that of the year before and reduced from the 2010 peak.¹³

DR groups also have a presence in the Republic of Ireland, where their primary activities are focused on providing financial and logistical support for attacks in Northern Ireland.

Security force activity resulted in significant numbers of arrests, disruptions and the recovery of terrorist material. However, it is assessed that all DR groups retain the capability to conduct further attacks.

In 2012, the RIRA merged with Republican Action Against Drugs (RAAD), which had operated as an anti-drugs vigilante entity, and a small group of unaffiliated, but nonetheless dangerous militants, to form a new organisation under the name of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). This 'new' IRA demonstrated lethal intent and capability through the murder of a prison officer in the attack described above. It is thought likely that the group will carry out further attacks.

ONH and CIRA remained outside the new amalgamation and continued to operate as autonomous entities. It is judged that ONH has been responsible for two attempted under-vehicle car bomb attacks since December 2012. Neither was successful.

CIRA continued to experience internal problems and leadership struggles, having split into separate and independent entities. Nonetheless, this group is dangerous and continues to plan attacks. In late January 2012, CIRA claimed responsibility for a shooting attack against police officers in Lurgan (UK), although nobody was injured.

¹³ It should be noted that these figures refer to attacks on 'national security targets', which include attacks targeted principally, but not exclusively, against the security forces, those who support them and premises and institutions associated with policing, justice and security. All attacks occurred in Northern Ireland.

On the other side of the sectarian divide, loyalist paramilitary leaderships in Northern Ireland have remained committed to their ceasefires. Nevertheless, inter-communal tensions persist. Some loyalist individuals might commit acts of violence against nationalist targets despite the commitment of their leaders. It is not believed that such activity is sanctioned by the leaderships of loyalist paramilitary groups.

National Liberation Front of Corsica

In Corsica (France), several IEDs were detonated in 2012, targeting holiday homes in the southern part of the island. Suspicion of responsibility for the attacks, which killed one man and seriously damaged approximately 20 buildings, fell on the Front de Libération Nationale de la Corse (FLNC, National Liberation Front of Corsica). The attacks were believed to have been executed to mark the island's 'national day' on 8 December.

Bombings, aggravated assaults, armed bank robberies and extortion via 'revolutionary taxes' are typical forms of crime committed by the FLNC. It is presently unclear what proportion of FLNC activists are more engaged in organised crime than in seeking the island's independence from France.



Kurdistan Workers' Party

No terrorist attacks were carried out in the EU in 2012 by the Partiya Karkeren Kurdistan (PKK, Kurdistan Workers' Party) or its affiliates. The main activities of the group in the EU continue to be fundraising, propaganda, logistical support and the recruitment and training of potential fighters.

In 2012 law enforcement authorities in several EU Member States undertook investigations into terrorist activities by the PKK. In March, Italian police carried out several raids and arrested five PKK members, on suspicion of extortion and seriously injuring Turkish immigrants. The suspects were charged with terrorism offences. In August, French authorities arrested six persons in southern France in connection with an attempt on the life of a member of the Kurdish community, which was considered to be an act of terrorism. In September, eight Kurdish men were arrested in Denmark on suspicion of financially supporting the PKK with sums amounting to DKK 140 million (EUR 18.7 million), obtained from donations and the extortion of Kurdish businesses. The case came to light primarily through information resulting from the investigation into Kurdish satellite TV station, ROJ TV, which is considered to be the PKK's main media outlet in Europe. In October, French authorities arrested three Turkish nationals and a French member of the PKK. These arrests were the result of an investigation launched in April 2012, following the recurrent visit to France of the senior leader of the European branch of the Koma Civakên Kurdistan (KCK, Kurdistan Communities Union). He is believed to have sought to obtain military-grade weapons and equipment intended for the PKK's armed struggle against the Turkish military. In December, Dutch police raided a secret PKK meeting

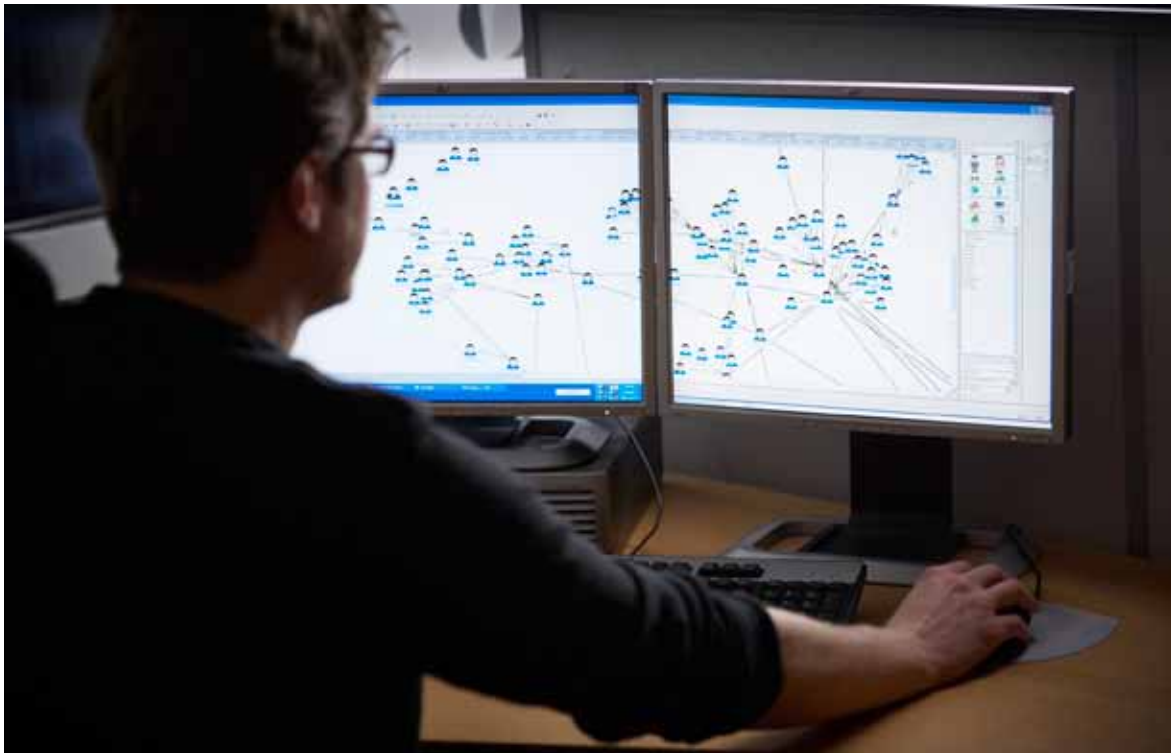
held in a holiday park in Ellemeet. They detained 55 people alleged to be active in what was believed to be a training camp. The PKK is also thought to recruit young Kurds living in the Netherlands for its armed struggle against the Turkish army and for potential involvement in terrorist activities.

Since 1984, the PKK has been fighting for autonomy in the predominantly Kurdish areas of south-east Turkey, where it carried out a high number of terrorist attacks in 2012. The core of the PKK's fighters operate from the Qandil mountains in northern Iraq. Some attacks were also committed in Istanbul and Ankara (Turkey). The KCK is also active in Turkey, northern Iraq and Europe. Whereas it is seen as a political body by some, the Turkish authorities consider it to be a front organisation of the PKK, led by the same individuals.

The number of attacks carried out against Turkish security forces, police, gendarmerie and local authorities peaked in 2012, reaching an intensity unobserved since 2006. Turkey also reported that the PKK continued to attack schools and teachers in south-east Turkey: compared to 2011, attacks on schools increased by 60% and on teachers by 100% in 2012.

Turkish investigation reports suggest that the PKK is involved in drug trafficking to finance its terrorist activities. The PKK is believed to collect money, via 'taxes', from drug traffickers crossing the Turkish border. Moreover, the group takes a share of profits at each phase, including the shipment of drugs to and from Turkey, transportation to the EU, and the distribution and sale of drugs in the EU. In return, the traffickers are offered protection from the PKK and arbitration in disputes.





Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) did not carry out any terrorist attacks in the EU in 2012. However, the organisation is still considered active and benefiting from (limited) support, especially in countries with a large Tamil community.

The LTTE is assessed to have split into two rival factions. One is promoting the use of political means to achieve their aims, whereas the other – more actively militant – division is advocating violence. In November 2012, a senior member of the Tamil Coordination Committee in France was shot and killed in Paris, presumably as a result of an internal rift. Two suspects were arrested for the murder in Paris.

The militant faction is pro-actively seeking support in terms of financing, logistics and propaganda. Their fundraising methods are believed to include extortion, illegal lotteries and human trafficking. They are also suspected of disseminating propaganda via radio, TV stations and various web-sites.

There are still on-going investigations concerning members of the LTTE in the Netherlands and in Switzerland.

- ▶ **18 terrorist attacks** were carried out in the EU **in 2012**, continuing the **downward trend** since 2010
- ▶ **24 individuals** were **arrested** in 4 EU Member States
- ▶ **Increasing use of violence** by Italian anarchists, **facilitated by firearms**



4

LEFT-WING AND ANARCHIST TERRORISM

4.1. Terrorist attacks and arrested suspects

As in previous years, the number of terrorist attacks by left-wing and anarchist groups in the EU continued to decrease in 2012. The same trend was observed concerning the numbers of individuals arrested on suspicion of left-wing and anarchist terrorist acts or activities.

Left-wing and anarchist terrorism has traditionally had a particularly strong presence in Greece, Italy and Spain, known as the Mediterranean Anarchist Triangle. In Italy the number of attacks and arrests increased in 2012. The threat posed by anarchist groups, in particular the Federazione Anarchica

Informale (FAI, Informal Anarchist Federation), became manifest on 7 May 2012, when the chief executive officer (CEO) of a nuclear energy company was intentionally shot in the leg in Genoa (Italy). In September, two individuals believed to be responsible for the attack were arrested. Italian authorities assess that the increased number of arrests in recent years has greatly reduced the FAI's operational capabilities. However, the organisation is structured in a way that allows it to replenish its ranks. Therefore, the FAI continues to pose a high threat.

In February 2012, an improvised incendiary device (IID) was discovered and dismantled by bomb disposal experts aboard a metro train in Egaleo station in Athens (Greece). The device used, in this first attack ever on the Athens metro system, was designed to be initiated by a timer, but the activation system failed. Contrary to previous attacks by anarchist groups in Greece, no advance warning was given. The attack was claimed by a terrorist group calling itself the Kinima 12 Flevari (12 February Movement).

2010
45
terrorist attacks
by anarchist
or left-wing
groups



2011
37
terrorist attacks
by anarchist
or left-wing
groups



2012
18
terrorist attacks
by anarchist
or left-wing
groups



Arrests in Greece in 2010 (18) and 2011 (15), and the seizure of large quantities of weapons and explosives, may have significantly reduced the activities and capabilities of left-wing and anarchist terrorist groups. In 2012 one attack and one arrest were reported.

Spanish authorities arrested four members of the dismantled left-wing terrorist organisation Grupos Antifascistas Primero de Octubre (GRAPO, Antifascist Groups First of October), who are suspected of involvement in the kidnapping and murder of a businessman in 1995.

4.2. Terrorist and violent extremist activities

Left-wing and anarchist groups often carry out activities in their home countries, targeting interests of foreign states, as a way of showing solidarity with groups in these countries.

In 2012 the anarchist movement in Italy gained strength. The FAI's claim of responsibility for the attack on 7 May 2012 outlines the elements that characterise the evolution of the anarchist agenda: a full internationalisation aiming at an international revolutionary front; an escalation of violence;

and a differentiation of the FAI from other anarchist groups by using different modus operandi.

In recent years, signs of international coordination among left-wing and anarchist groups have been observed. The international revolutionary front, initiated by the Greek terrorist organisation Synomosia Pyrinon Fotias (Conspiracy of Fire Cells), is a diffuse, horizontal structure of informal groups worldwide, which are not in direct contact but





communicate by carrying out direct action in the framework of specific campaigns. In this context, the FAI has links to groups or individuals in Greece, Spain, Chile, Indonesia and Mexico. In 2012 arson attacks in the UK and the Netherlands were claimed in the name of the FAI. To date, there is no intelligence to indicate that those behind these attacks have any links to the more extreme Italian FAI. The attacks did not exhibit the same levels of technical sophistication as those in Italy.

On the operational level, the FAI attack in May, mentioned above, indicates a change in strategy from traditional anarchist practices towards more violent attacks. Over the past 10 years, anarchist groups have preferred the use of parcel bombs and IEDs as part of their *modus operandi*. The use of firearms can be seen as a clear escalation of violence, as stated in the claim of responsibility for the attack by the FAI. Firearms were last used in a left-wing or anarchist attack in Greece in 2010, when a journalist was murdered by the terrorist organisation *Sekta Epanastaton* (Revolutionaries' Sect).

Left-wing and anarchist groups continue provocative action and deliberately cause clashes with the police during violent protests against right-wing opponents. Particularly alarming is the direct targeting of police officers. German authorities counted up to 500 police officers injured in 2011, and this trend continued in 2012 with even more aggressive attacks. Some attacks even reached the level of criminal offences classified as attempted homicides. In May 2012, two officers in a patrol car were attacked by a group of unidentified people with stones and IEDs in Berlin (Germany).

In most cases, left-wing and anarchist groups aim to damage property rather than to injure or kill people. As in past years, banks and fiscal agencies remained preferred targets in Italy in 2012. However, in a number of EU Member States, the choice of potential targets has become more focused since 2011. In 2012 an anti-fascist group in Poland published a list of Polish neo-Nazis, fascists and nationalists on its website, encouraging others to take action against them.

Also in May 2012, an attack claimed by FAI targeted the EU Delegation in Buenos Aires (Argentina). An improvised explosive device (IED) was left at the main entrance of the EU Delegation, exploding shortly after it was deployed. The explosion damaged the entrance and broke windows in neighbouring buildings. Nobody was injured in this attack. A few days before the attack, the EU had warned Argentina against the planned nationalisation of a Spanish-owned oil company.

Besides traditional ideological themes such as anti-capitalism, anti-militarism and anti-fascism, violent left-wing and anarchist extremists also focus on a number of other themes and issues. The vehicle of a senior EU official responsible for overseeing the implementation of austerity measures in Greece was the subject of an arson attack in Germany. In Belgium a campaign targeted EU civil servants with anti-EU leaflets and stickers; a number of vehicles were also damaged. Furthermore, within the framework of the anti-capitalism campaign, 'attack capital in the streets', several luxury cars were set on fire.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a tunnel. The perspective is from the side of the road, looking down the length of the tunnel. The road is dark asphalt with white lane markings. The walls of the tunnel are concrete, and the ceiling is supported by a series of beams. Bright lights are visible at the far end of the tunnel, creating a strong lens flare effect. A solid yellow horizontal bar is positioned at the top of the image, containing the title text.

RIGHT-WING TERRORISM

- ▶ **2 right-wing terrorist attacks** reported in 2012
- ▶ **10 individuals arrested** for right-wing terrorist offences
- ▶ The **Internet and social media** continue to facilitate violent right-wing extremism
- ▶ A **prevalence of weapons and ammunition** held by members of the extremist right-wing community



5

RIGHT-WING TERRORISM

5.1. Terrorist attacks and arrested suspects

In June 2012, a man was injured when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded outside the offices of the Roma political party Evroroma, in the central Bulgarian town of Sandanski.

As a result of preventive measures on precursors for explosives, Polish authorities were able to thwart an attack on constitutional bodies in Poland. In November 2012, police arrested a 45-year-old Polish citizen in Kraków (Poland) on suspicion of planning to detonate an IED near the Polish parliament and of attacking high-ranking state representatives, including the Polish President and government members. He was apparently motivated by the belief that 'foreigners' controlled Poland and that, therefore, the president and the government needed to be eliminated. Military and industrial explosives, gun powder and other materials that could be used to produce IEDs were seized during house searches in several locations in Poland. The suspect was also in possession of illegal firearms, ammunition, ballistic vests, kevlar helmets as well as counterfeit domestic and foreign license plates. He appears to have used his position as a university lecturer to identify and recruit people holding similar political views.

In November 2012, Italian police arrested four persons and searched 17 houses across Italy in an investigation concerning the Italian forum of a neo-Nazi website. The suspects are accused of having used the website to incite ethnic and racial hatred. The network is believed to have compiled a list of political figures, including the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, a cabinet minister and a senior figure from the Jewish community in Rome, whom it considered to be its enemies.



5.2. Violent right-wing extremism

Following the attacks committed by Anders Behring Breivik in Norway, and the discovery in Germany of the existence of the right-wing terrorist group Nationalsozialistischer Untergrund (NSU, National Socialist Underground) in 2011, EU Member States have increased their monitoring of the right-wing extremist scene. In 2012, this led to a greater number of law enforcement measures than in previous years.

For some individuals, Breivik has become an inspirational figure. In 2012, a number of threats to emulate his 2011 attacks were issued over social networks or via email. In April 2012, police arrested a suspect in Tyneside in the UK, after he issued threats on a social networking site to carry out a bomb and firearms attack against Muslims.

Islamophobia

Several incidents in 2012 were linked to perceptions by right-wing extremists that increasing immigration and the alleged growth of Islam in Europe were threats to national culture and values.

In Germany, in 2012, a small right-wing extremist party organised a series of demonstrations in front of differ-

ent mosques, as well as a defamatory cartoon competition. Confrontations between members of the group and salafists resulted in violent clashes.

Whereas right-wing extremist political parties are unlikely to orchestrate serious violent offences against Muslims, it is assessed that such events may incite certain participants to commit criminal offences. Arson attacks targeting, for example, halal butchers and mosques have been reported by a number of EU Member States.

In the UK, recent anti-Islamic protests have led to a rapprochement between the right-wing extremist scene and the English Defence League (EDL) as well as its splinter groups. This is mirrored elsewhere, with the EDL and its counterpart 'defence leagues' in other EU Member States linking up with right-wing extremist groups.

In March 2012, anti-Islamic activists gathered in the Danish city of Aarhus in an attempt to form a European anti-Islamic movement consisting of separate organisations from across the EU. This 'European Counter-Jihad Meeting' was attended by 'defence leagues' from countries including the UK, France, Poland and the Scandinavian countries, in addition to groups such as Stop Islamisation of Europe (SIOE).

The Aarhus rally, organised by the EDL, was attended by between 160 and 200 supporters. Another event took place in August 2012 in Stockholm (Sweden). Representatives of anti-immigration groups from the EU, the US and Canada participated in this so-called first 'Annual Global Counter-Jihad' rally.

Internet

As a result of law enforcement investigations in 2012, a number of right-wing extremist Internet forums were banned or shut down, including the most prominent German-language right-wing extremist forums. Since 2009, German police have investigated a group of 29 individuals suspected of administrating an international right-wing extremist website. The suspects, aged between 22 and 64, were believed to have been uploading lyrics and songs inciting racial hatred and violence. At the time of disruption, the forum contained the lyrics of more than 2 400 songs and more than 1 400 downloadable audio files. Most of this content was publicly available.

Several EU Member States emphasise that the Internet has also been highly significant for radicalisation, recruitment, networking and mobilisation purposes. Poland reported that in 2012 neo-Nazi organisations resumed activity on the online Polish version of the 'Redwatch' list, which includes pictures, personal data and addresses of political opponents.

A phenomenon that has developed recently on social media is a movement, established initially in France, which opposes multiculturalism and French social politics. The movement uses the Lambda symbol as a logo. It has received significant positive feedback and to date has been replicated in Belgium, Germany and Austria. This movement advocates a national, racially-defined identity to counteract a perceived demographic imbalance caused by increasing immigration.

The Netherlands reported a similar development called 'Zwart Front' (Black Front). This organisation was founded in 2011 but was inactive until recently. As of December 2012, their website demonstrated significant activity.

It is assessed that the relevance and impact of such organisations will depend upon their ability to convert their online propaganda and rhetoric into violent action.

Weapons and ammunition

Investigative measures in a number of EU Member States in 2012 confirmed that right-wing extremists have access to significant quantities of weapons and ammunition. Weapons collections, as well as National Socialism and wartime paraphernalia have been traditionally common among many right-wing extremists. Although there may be no specific intent to use the weapons in attacks, their possession constitutes a potential threat.





SINGLE-ISSUE TERRORISM

- ▶ **Increased cooperation** between violent ARE groups and militant 'eco-anarchists'
- ▶ **ARE groups** make **effective use of the Internet** for harassment campaigns

6

SINGLE-ISSUE
TERRORISM

In 2012, as in previous years, there were no attacks or arrests related to single-issue terrorism reported by EU Member States.

However, Austria, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the Republic of Ireland and the UK reported a number of incidents or arrests related to animal rights extremism (ARE). In July 2012, British and Dutch citizens were arrested in Amsterdam on behalf of the British authorities in connection with ARE. The premises raided included the office of Dutch animal rights organisation Respect voor Dieren (Respect for Animals). Various items were seized, including component parts of an improvised explosive device (IED). As part of the same operation, a member of extremist animal rights organisation Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) was arrested in the UK. Judicial proceedings are underway against all three individuals on suspicion of blackmailing Huntingdon Life Sciences.

ARE groups, such as the Anti-Dierproeven Coalitie (ADC, Anti-Animal Testing Coalition), the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and SHAC, carry out legitimate protests and illegal direct actions and have a clandestine cell structure. They focus their activities *inter alia* on hunting associations, the fur industry, factory farming, breeding facilities and the pharmaceutical industry. Usually, these actions range from vandalism, the liberation of animals and public disorder, to serious acts of destruction and include the use of improvised incendiary devices (IIDs) or IEDs.

Transport companies and their employees, as well as investors and shareholders of the affected companies, are sometimes randomly selected as targets. Although EU Member States report a decrease in criminal activity and direct action by ARE groups in 2012 compared to previous years, research companies and institutions have voiced concerns that criminal acts associated with ARE have been under-reported in 2012.

In those EU Member States in which large-scale infrastructure construction projects, such as the building of new airports, railroads, power plants or mining are underway, environmental activism increased in 2012. For example, members of violent environmental groups were arrested for public order offences during protests against the building of a gas refinery in Mayo (Republic of Ireland).

→ 2012
No single-issue terrorist attacks or arrests



In 2012 a number of test fields with genetically modified crops were targeted by environmental activists. In July, two fields planted with genetically modified potatoes were destroyed in Lelystad (the Netherlands). The damage caused is estimated at EUR 88 000. In August, two additional fields were destroyed in Valthermond (the Netherlands) causing estimated damage of EUR 150 000.

In recent years, increased cooperation between violent ARE groups, militant environmental groups and militant anarchist groups – particularly groups that could be described as eco-anarchists – has been observed in several EU Member States on a national and international level. It is believed that the current nature of these groups attracts individuals inclined to use violence.

In Italy, protests by the 'NO TAV' movement against the high-speed train project in Val di Susa (Turin) increased in frequency in 2012. Signalling equipment on the track was repeatedly sabotaged by arson attacks. In July 2012, a train had to stop after its pantograph broke as a result of an act of sabotage. This action, similar to others in the past, was carried out using *modus operandi* traditionally employed by anarchists.

Members of ARE groups make very effective use of Internet websites for recruitment, propaganda, and intimidation or harassment campaigns against their targets. In January 2012, an airline company involved in the global transportation of laboratory animals suffered attacks known as 'email bombs', in which an email address is bombarded with emails of similar content in a short period of time.

In the past, environmental campaigns used to focus on issues including climate change or environmental concerns related to power generation from fossil fuels. In 2012 a shift towards nuclear energy was reported. To date, environmentalist groups have, for the main part, protested lawfully or through direct action. However, such protests and non-violent direct actions have the potential to escalate, as the construction of nuclear power sites progresses.

ANNEXES

ANNEX

1

OVERVIEW OF THE FAILED, FOILED AND COMPLETED ATTACKS IN 2012 PER EU MEMBER STATE AND PER AFFILIATION

Overview of the failed, foiled and completed attacks in 2012 per EU Member State and per affiliation¹⁴

Member State	Religiously inspired	Left-wing	Right-wing	Separatist	Not specified	Total 2012
Belgium	2	0	0	0	0	2
Bulgaria	0	0	1	0	1	2
France	4	0	0	121	0	125
Greece	0	1	0	0	0	1
Italy	0	10	0	0	1	11
Spain	0	7	1	46	0	54
United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	24	24
Total	6	18	2	167	26	219

In 2012, 219 terrorist attacks occurred in seven EU Member States. The majority took place in France, Spain and the UK. After a decrease in 2011 (174), the number of terrorist attacks in the EU rose to a similar level as in 2010. As a result of terrorist attacks, 17 people died and 46 were injured in the EU in 2012.

- As in previous years, the **majority of the attacks (167)** were claimed or attributed to **separatist terrorism** and took place in France (121) and Spain (46). After a decrease in 2011, the total number of separatist attacks in 2012 has attained the same level as in 2010.
- Italy, Spain and Greece reported together 18 terrorist attacks by left-wing and anarchist groups. The number of **attacks by anarchist or left-wing groups continues its decrease** to less than 10% of the total number of attacks in 2010. Greece has seen a significant decrease: from 20 (2010) to 6 (2011) to 1 (2012).
- Religiously inspired terrorists carried out six attacks on EU territory in 2012, compared to no attacks defined as terrorism in 2011.¹⁵ **Eight people lost their lives as a result of attacks related to religiously inspired terrorism.**
- An **attack in Bulgaria claimed the lives of seven people** in July 2012. At the time of writing the responsibility for this attack was not determined, although indications suggest possible links to Hezbollah.
- Bulgaria and Spain each reported one right-wing attack.
- No attacks related to single-issue terrorism were reported in 2012.
- More than **40% of attacks in 2012 targeted private properties**. Business targets have remained stable at 25%. The proportion of attacks against government facilities slightly decreased compared with 2011.

¹⁴ In 2012, Northern Ireland experienced 24 involved attacks on national security targets. There were no other attacks on national security targets in the UK in 2012. Attacks on national security include those targeting principally (but not exclusively) the security forces, those who support them and premises and institutions associated with policing, justice and security.

¹⁵ The attack at Frankfurt Airport in March 2011, which killed two US military personnel, was not defined as terrorism according to German legislation.

ANNEX

2

ARRESTS IN 2012 PER EU MEMBER STATE AND PER AFFILIATION

Arrests in 2012 per EU Member State and per affiliation¹⁶

Member State	Religiously inspired	Left-wing	Right-wing	Separatist	Not specified	Total 2012
Austria	1	1	0	0	0	2
Belgium	8	0	0	0	0	8
Bulgaria	1	0	4	5	0	10
Cyprus	1	0	0	0	0	1
Denmark	2	0	0	0	3	5
Finland	2	0	0	0	0	2
France	91	0	0	95	0	186
Germany	6	0	0	2	0	8
Greece	0	1	0	2	0	3
Ireland (Republic of)	0	0	0	66	0	66
Italy	16	17	4	6	0	43
Netherlands	7	0	0	55	0	62
Poland	1	0	1	0	0	2
Romania	15	0	0	1	0	16
Slovakia	0	0	1	0	0	1
Spain	8	5	0	25	0	38
United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	84	84
Total	159	24	10	257	87	537

In 2012, **537 individuals were arrested** for terrorism-related offences in 17 EU Member States. This is an increase compared to 2011, when 484 arrests were reported. The majority of the arrests occurred in France (186), the Republic of Ireland (66) and the Netherlands (62). **This increase can be attributed to a higher number of arrests for religiously inspired terrorism.** Compared to 2011, the number of arrests increased in Belgium, Bulgaria, Italy, Romania and especially the Netherlands.

- Arrests related to separatist terrorism continue to represent the greatest share of arrests in the EU and remain relatively stable at 257, or 48%. The greatest increase was recorded in the Netherlands as a result of one raid, during which 55 persons with links to the PKK were arrested. A continuous decrease is seen in Spain: from 104 (2010) to 41 (2011) to 25 (2012).
- Arrests related to religiously inspired terrorism increased in 2012 from 122 to 159 and represent almost one third of the total number of arrests in the EU. **The vast majority of arrested suspects were under the age of 30.** Contrary to 2011, more than half of the arrested individuals were EU nationals. A majority were arrested for membership of a terrorist organisation. Other offences included, but were not limited to, recruitment (21), sending fighters (17), financing of terrorist activities (15), facilitation of terrorist offences (13), possession of arms and explosives (7) or a combination of these and other offences.
- A total of 24 individuals were arrested in 2012 for left-wing and anarchist terrorism in four EU Member States: Italy, Spain, Greece and Austria. In Italy the number of arrests increased compared to 2011. A significant decrease was noted in Greece, where the number dropped from 18 arrests (2010) to 15 (2011), to 1 (2012).
- The number of arrests related to right-wing terrorism remains low. In 2012, a total of 10 people were arrested in four EU Member States.
- No arrests were reported in relation to single-issue terrorism.
- The rise in arrests for membership of a terrorist organisation, already reported in 2011, continued in 2012.

¹⁶ For the UK the figures represent the number of charges for 2012, to provide a more accurate comparison with the number of judicial arrests in the other Member States. However, at this stage in the criminal justice process, it is not possible for the UK to assign an affiliation to individual cases.

ANNEX

3

CONVICTIONS AND PENALTIES
(EUROJUST)Number of individuals in concluded court proceedings per EU Member State in 2010, 2011 and 2012 as reported to Eurojust¹⁷

Member State	2010	2011	2012
Austria	0	0	2
Belgium	10	8	24
Czech Republic	0	0	1
Denmark	1	4	9
France	39	45	98
Germany	12	17	16
Greece	11	3	8
Ireland (Republic of)	18	11	0
Italy	22	4	14
Lithuania	0	1	0
Netherlands	8	5	1
Portugal	0	0	1
Spain	173	203	198
Sweden	4	2	3
United Kingdom	19	13	25
Total	317	316	400

- In 2012, 149 concluded court proceedings on terrorism-related charges were reported to Eurojust by 13 EU Member States. This constitutes **a slight decrease compared to 2011**, when 153 relevant concluded court proceedings were reported to Eurojust.
- In 2012, a total of 400 individuals were tried in the reported concluded court proceedings. Eighteen individuals stood trial in more than one proceeding, indicted for different offences.¹⁸ Furthermore, in Denmark, two legal entities faced trials on terrorism-related charges and were found guilty. Also in France, two legal entities were convicted of terrorist offences. As a result, the total number of verdicts pronounced in 2012 — towards individuals and entities — amounts to 437.
- Out of the 400 individuals, **50 were female, which represents a slight increase** in comparison with 2010 (26) and 2011 (40). A majority of female defendants (42) were tried for separatist terrorism acts, which continues a tendency observed in recent years. The remaining female defendants were brought to court for left-wing (7) and religiously inspired (1) terrorist offences.
- As in previous years, Spain is the Member State with the highest number of individuals in concluded court proceedings for terrorist offences in 2012. Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy and the UK saw an increase compared to 2011, while the Netherlands noted a decrease. In 2012, for the first time, the Czech Republic reported a terrorism-related court decision.

¹⁷ The data for Belgium includes three court proceedings in which three individuals were convicted of violation of the anti-racism and/or anti-discrimination legislation. One of those individuals was prosecuted in two of the proceedings. The data provided by the UK covers England, Scotland and Wales and does not include data for Northern Ireland. The data for the UK in 2012 refers solely to convictions. At the time of writing, Eurojust had not received a contribution on terrorism-related court decisions in 2012 from the Republic of Ireland. The data for the previous years corresponds to the data reported in the respective TE-SAT reports.

¹⁸ One of these individuals was tried in Belgium, another one in France and the remainder in Spain. The verdicts pronounced in the different proceedings were counted separately when analysing the number of verdicts in the figures that follow.

Number of reported convictions and acquittals in 2012 per EU Member State and per type of terrorism¹⁹

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Religiously inspired</i>	<i>Separatist</i>	<i>Left-wing</i>	<i>Not specified</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Austria</i>	2	0	0	0	2
<i>Belgium</i>	25	0	0	0	25
<i>Czech Republic</i>	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Denmark</i>	4	2	5	0	11
<i>France</i>	12	63	22	4	101
<i>Germany</i>	11	1	4	0	16
<i>Greece</i>	0	0	8	0	8
<i>Italy</i>	2	0	12	0	14
<i>Netherlands</i>	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Portugal</i>	0	1	0	0	1
<i>Spain</i>	13	208	8	0	229
<i>Sweden</i>	3	0	0	0	3
<i>United Kingdom</i>	21	3	0	1	25
Total	95	278	59	5	437

- Similar to previous years, the **majority of the reported verdicts in 2012 relates to separatist terrorism**. As in the past, Spanish courts pronounced the highest number of verdicts in separatist terrorism cases in 2012, followed by France.
- All court decisions reported by Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Sweden concern religiously inspired terrorism.
- The majority of verdicts in relation to left-wing terrorism were rendered in France.
- No concluded court proceedings on right-wing terrorism were reported to Eurojust in 2012.
- Verdicts for separatist terrorist offences in 2012 carried average sentences of nine years and those for left-wing terrorism eight years. The average sentence for religiously inspired terrorist offences was six years. Those sentences are lower than the average reported in 2011 for the respective type of terrorism.

¹⁹ The two legal entities convicted in Denmark, as well as the two convicted in France are also included in the numbers. Please see footnotes 17 and 18 for details.

Number of verdicts, convictions and acquittals per EU Member State in 2012 as reported to Eurojust²⁰

Member State	Convicted	Acquitted	Total	Acquitted %
<i>Austria</i>	1	1	2	50%
<i>Belgium</i>	11	14	25	56%
<i>Czech Republic</i>	1	0	1	0%
<i>Denmark</i>	6	5	11	45%
<i>France</i>	94	7	101	7%
<i>Germany</i>	16	0	16	0%
<i>Greece</i>	8	0	8	0%
<i>Italy</i>	0	14	14	100%
<i>Netherlands</i>	1	0	1	0%
<i>Portugal</i>	1	0	1	0%
<i>Spain</i>	141	88	229	38%
<i>Sweden</i>	0	3	3	100%
<i>United Kingdom²⁰</i>	25	0	25	0%
Total	305	132	437	30%

- In 2012 **acquittals constituted 30% of all verdicts** pronounced for terrorist offences. The percentage of acquittals was similar to that in 2011.
- Six of the thirteen EU Member States with reported court decisions on terrorism cases in 2012 have a full conviction rate. These Member States are the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal and the UK. Germany and the Netherlands reported no acquittals in 2010, 2011 and 2012. As in previous years, France also had mostly successful prosecutions.
- The reported verdicts in relation to religiously inspired terrorism have the highest acquittal rate (35%), which differs from previous years, when the highest acquittal rate was registered for verdicts related to separatist terrorism verdicts. In 2012, 32% of left-wing terrorism verdicts were acquittals, followed by separatist terrorism, with an acquittal rate of 29%.
- The majority of the penalties imposed (52%) are of up to five years' imprisonment. However, longer prison sentences were handed down in a number of cases. Penalties of ten and more years constitute 24% of all penalties rendered.
- Of the 50 female defendants in the reported concluded court proceedings in 2012, 14 were completely acquitted and one was acquitted in one proceeding and convicted in another.

²⁰ The data for the United Kingdom in 2012 refers solely to convictions.

Number of final verdicts and verdicts pending judicial remedy per EU Member State in 2012 as reported to Eurojust

Member State	Final	Pending judicial remedy	Total
<i>Austria</i>	2	0	2
<i>Belgium</i>	4	21	25
<i>Czech Republic</i>	1	0	1
<i>Denmark</i>	3	8	11
<i>France</i>	70	31	101
<i>Germany</i>	10	6	16
<i>Greece</i>	0	8	8
<i>Italy</i>	12	2	14
<i>Netherlands</i>	0	1	1
<i>Portugal</i>	1	0	1
<i>Spain</i>	167	62	229
<i>Sweden</i>	3	0	3
<i>United Kingdom</i>	25	0	25
Total	298	139	437

- Some verdicts pronounced in 2012 are pending judicial remedy.²¹
- Cases where no confirmation was received by Eurojust on the finality of the verdict, were considered as pending judicial remedy.
- If a verdict was handed down in previous years but it became final in 2012, it was included as final in the numbers for 2012.
- In the cases when a verdict pronounced in 2012 was appealed and the appeal was concluded before the end of the year, the proceeding was counted as one.
- Verdicts from 2012, on which an appeal is pending, are included in the reporting as pending judicial remedy.

²¹ According to Council Decision 2005/671/JHA, the information to be submitted to Eurojust is in relation to final convictions. Due to the specifics of reporting, Member States submit information on both final and not final decisions. Therefore, reference is also made to those decisions pending judicial remedy and they were included in the reported numbers.

ANNEX

4

METHODOLOGY

The EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) was established in the aftermath of the 11 September 2001 attacks in the United States of America (USA), as a reporting mechanism from the Terrorism Working Party (TWP) of the Council of the EU to the European Parliament. The content of the TE-SAT is based on information supplied by EU Member States, some third states (Colombia, Croatia, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA) and partner organisation Eurojust, as well as information gained from open sources.

In accordance with ENFOPOL 65 (8196/2/06), the TE-SAT is produced annually to provide an overview of the terrorism phenomenon in the EU, from a law enforcement perspective. It seeks to record basic facts and assemble figures regarding terrorist attacks and arrests in the European Union. The report also aims to present trends and new developments from the information available to Europol.

The TE-SAT is a situation report which describes and analyses the outward manifestations of terrorism, i.e. terrorist attacks and activities. It does not seek to analyse the root causes of terrorism, neither does it attempt to assess the impact or effectiveness of counter-terrorism policies and law enforcement measures taken, although it can serve to illustrate some of these. The methodology for producing this annual report was developed by Europol and endorsed by the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council on 1 and 2 June 2006.

This edition of the TE-SAT has been produced by Europol in consultation with the 2013 TE-SAT Advisory Board, composed of representatives of the past, present, and future EU Presidencies, i.e. Cyprus, Republic of Ireland and Lithuania (the EU 'Troika'), along with permanent members, representatives from France and Spain, the EU Intelligence Analysis Centre (INTCEN), Eurojust, the office of the EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator and Europol staff.

For the preparation of this report, Europol collected qualitative and quantitative data on terrorist offences in the EU and data on arrests of people on suspicion of involvement in those offences, provided or confirmed by Member States. Similar data were collected, when available, of offences in which EU interests were affected outside of the EU. Eurojust contributed data on convictions and penalties for terrorist offences in EU Member States.

Included as 'arrests' are those judicial arrests warranted by a prosecutor or investigating judge, whereby a person is detained for questioning on suspicion of committing a criminal offence for which detention is permitted by national law. The fact that the person may subsequently be provisionally released or placed under house arrest does not impact on the calculation of the number of arrests.

The definition of the term 'terrorist offences' is indicated in Article 1 of the Council Framework Decision of 13 June 2002 on combating terrorism (2002/475/JHA),²² which all EU Member States have implemented in their national legislation. This Framework Decision specifies that terrorist offences are intentional acts which, given their nature or context, may seriously damage a country or an international organisation when committed with the aim of:

- seriously intimidating a population, or
- unduly compelling a government or international organisation to perform or abstain from performing an act, or
- seriously destabilising or destroying the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country or an international organisation.

In cases in which the wording of Article 1 of the Framework Decision leaves room for interpretation, the TE-SAT 2013 respects Member States' definitions of terrorist offences on their territories. At times, it can be difficult to assess whether a criminal event should be regarded as an act of 'terrorism' or as an act of 'extremism'. Contrary to terrorism, not all forms of extremism sanction the use of violence. Nevertheless, extremism as a phenomenon may be related to terrorism and exhibit similar behavioural patterns. Therefore, the TE-SAT 2013 mentions criminal acts with the potential to seriously destabilise or destroy the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country, when they were reported by the Member States as extremism, in an effort to provide a clearer picture of the phenomenon and its relation to terrorism. However, these cases were not considered in the statistical data of this report, which exclusively reflect incidents reported as terrorism by EU Member States.

²² Amended by the Council Framework Decision 2008/919/JHA of 28 November 2008.

Types of terrorism

The TE-SAT categorises terrorist organisations by their source of motivation. However, many groups have a mixture of motivating ideologies, although usually one ideology or motivation dominates. The choice of categories used in the TE-SAT reflects the current situation in the EU, as reported by Member States. The categories are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

Religiously inspired terrorism is perpetrated by individuals, groups, networks or organisations that evoke religion to justify their actions. Groups inspired by or affiliated with al-Qaeda belong to this category.

Ethno-nationalist and separatist terrorist groups are motivated by nationalism, ethnicity and/or religion.

Left-wing terrorist groups seek to change the entire political, social and economic system of a state according to an extremist leftist model. Their ideology is often Marxist-Leninist. The agenda of anarchist terrorist groups is usually revolutionary, anti-capitalist and anti-authoritarian. Not all Member States distinguish between activities of left-wing and anarchist terrorist groups in their contributions. For this reason, both categories are discussed in the same chapter of this report.

Right-wing terrorist groups seek to change the entire political, social and economic system on an extremist right-wing model. The ideological roots of European right-wing extremism and terrorism can usually be traced back to National Socialism.

Single-issue terrorism is violence committed with the desire to change a specific policy or practice within a target society. The term is generally used to describe animal rights and environmental terrorist groups.

Data collection

The EU Council Decision of 20 September 2005 (2005/671/JHA), on the exchange of information and cooperation concerning terrorist offences, obliges Member States to collect all relevant information concerning and resulting from criminal investigations conducted by their law enforcement authorities with respect to terrorist offences, and sets out the conditions under which this information should be sent to Europol. Europol processed the data and the results were cross-checked with the Member States. In cases of divergences or gaps, the results were corrected, complemented, and then validated by the Member States.

Eurojust also collected data on prosecutions and convictions for terrorist offences on the basis of the aforementioned EU Council Decision. The data used in this report concerns relevant court decisions and legislation amendments in 2012. Due to the specifics of reporting, Member States submit information on both final and not final decisions. Therefore, reference is also made to those decisions pending judicial remedy. In case a verdict pronounced in 2012 was appealed and the appeal was concluded before the end of the year, Eurojust counted the proceeding as one. Verdicts from 2012 on which an appeal is pending are included in the reporting as pending judicial remedy. In case no confirmation was received by Eurojust on the finality of the verdict, it has been considered as pending judicial remedy. If a verdict was handed down in previous years but it became final in 2012, it has been included in the numbers for 2012 as final. Eurojust's contribution was verified with the Member States that provided relevant data.

ANNEX

5

ACRONYMS
AND TRANSLATIONS

ADC	Anti-Dierproeven Coalitie Anti-Animal Testing Coalition	MUJAO	Mouvement pour l'Unité et le Jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest Jama'at al-tawhid wal-jihad fi gharb Ifriqiya Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa
ALF	Animal Liberation Front		
AQAP	al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula Tanzim qa'idat al-jihad fi jazirat al-'arab	NSU	Nationalsozialistischer Untergrund National Socialist Underground
AQIM	al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb Tanzim al-qa'ida bi-bilad al-Maghrib al-Islami	ONH	Óglaigh na h'Éireann Warriors of Ireland
ARE	Animal rights extremism	PKK	Partiya Karkeren Kurdistan Kurdistan Workers' Party
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	RAAD	Republican Action Against Drugs
CIRA	Continuity Irish Republican Army	RG	Resistência Galega Galician Resistance
DR	Dissident Republican	RIRA	Real Irish Republican Army
EDL	English Defence League	SHAC	Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty
ETA	Euskadi ta Askatasuna Basque Fatherland and Liberty	SIOE	Stop Islamisation of Europe
EU	European Union	TE-SAT	European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report
FAI	Federazione Anarchica Informale Informal Anarchist Federation	UK	United Kingdom
FLNC	Front de Libération Nationale de la Corse National Liberation Front of Corsica		
GRAPO	Grupos Antifascistas Primero de Octubre Antifascist Groups First of October		
HME	Home-made explosive		
HSM	Harakat al-Shabab al-Mujahidin Young Mujahidin Movement		
IED	Improvised explosive device		
IID	Improvised incendiary device		
IMU	Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan		
IRA	Irish Republican Army		
KCK	Koma Civakên Kurdistan Kurdistan Communities Union		
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam		
MENA	Middle East and North Africa		
MNLA	Mouvement National de Libération de l'Azawad National Liberation Movement of Azawad		



AMENDMENTS IN NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON TERRORISM IN 2012



Austria

On 1 January 2012, Articles 278f and 282a of the Austrian Criminal Code came into force. The articles were included in the Austrian Criminal Code in implementation of Council Framework Decision 2008/919/JHA of 28 November 2008 amending Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA on combating terrorism. According to Article 278f, it is punishable to offer or provide a media publication or Internet information, the content of which is meant to instruct to commit terrorism-related crimes, in order to provoke to commit such a crime. Public provocation to commit a terrorism-related crime, spread in a print work, via radio broadcast or any other media or in a public way that enables many people to receive it, as well as the endorsement of such crimes have been criminalised in Article 282a.



Italy

In Italy, the Law of 7 August 2012, n.133, introduced amendments in the provisions establishing the competences of the General Prosecutor of the Court of Appeal of Rome with regard to all requests for telephone interception with a preventive purpose originating from the Information and Security Service.

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Europol would like to thank the law enforcement photographers whose photographs feature in this publication.

Drukkerij van Deventer
's-Gravenzande, the Netherlands
2013 — 52 pp. — 21 × 29.7 cm

QL-AJ-13-001-EN-C
ISBN: 978-92-95078-76-5
ISSN: 1830-9712
DOI: 10.2813/11445



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