



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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LIMITE

ENFOPOL

COMMUNICATION

REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION

from:	Presidency
to:	Terrorism Working Party
Contact:	twg@consilium.europa.eu
Tel./Fax:	+32.2-281.3945, +32.2-281.58.90
Subject:	Questionnaire to delegations of the Terrorism Working Party

Questionnaire on structural changes in countering terrorism and adjustment of counter terrorism policy of the EU over the last decade

The attacks that were conducted on 11 September 2001 are still embedded in the memory of millions of people around the globe. It was the first successful act of international terrorism committed on the US mainland in the 21st century. The attack in New York did not only signify the beginning of a new terrorist threat – Al Qaeda – but also established a new trend of employing random tactics and different methodologies to achieve dubious goals i.e. posing an even greater threat to disparate countries including those in the EU and to produce an unlimited number of civilian casualties.

Member States have also been exposed to this new emerging trend of international terrorism particularly in Madrid and London in 2004 and 2005 respectively.

Such unconceivable acts of terrorism lead the EU to develop a counter-terrorism strategy that “combats terrorism globally while respecting human rights, and make[s] Europe safer, allowing its citizens to live in an area of freedom, security and justice.”¹

Since 2001, the EU has emphasised the need for increased efforts at EU level in combating terrorism², *inter alia*, in the following documents:

- the Council Framework Decisions 2002/475/JHA and 2008/919/JHA on combating terrorism that provide a definition of terrorist offences and leave the prosecution in the jurisdiction of the Member States;³
 - the additional measures to strengthen existing mechanisms to prevent and deal with terrorist attacks proposed by the Commission in 2004;⁴
 - the EU Action Plan on combating terrorism;⁵
 - the Report on the implementation of the revised Strategy on Terrorist Financing ;⁶
 - the Stockholm Programme that underscores the importance of respecting fundamental rights and freedoms in countering terrorism;⁷
 - the Final report of the first round of EU peer evaluation of counter terrorism arrangements.⁸
- Taking the above into consideration, the Polish Presidency would like to summarize the EU CT policy in light of the ten-year commemoration of the attacks in the USA by gathering relevant information from Member States. The collected information will help to map the Member States’ commitment to combating terrorism more effectively and will give a broad overview of the measures taken throughout the decade to reinforce the Member States’ capacity to counter terrorism.

¹ 14469/4/05 REV 4, p. 3.

² 14469/4/05 REV 4.

³ OJ L 164, 22.6.2002, p. 3, OJ L 330, 9.12.2008, p. 21.

⁴ 13980/04.

⁵ 15893/1/10 REV 1.

⁶ 8864/1/09 REV 1.

⁷ OJ C 115, 4.5.2010, p. 1.

⁸ 12168/3/05 REV 3.

Hence, the Presidency has prepared a questionnaire that is divided into two different parts.

The first part deals with structural and policy changes in countering terrorism, and especially the coordinating role of structures set up in Member States to fight terrorism.

The second part focuses on terrorism threat analysis.

Member States are invited to answer the following questions:

I PART - STRUCTURAL AND POLICY CHANGES - COORDINATING ROLE OF STRUCTURES

1. Does your country have a uniform national counter-terrorism strategy? If yes, who is responsible for implementing it?
2. Have there been any significant legal and/or organisational changes to the CT policy of your country in the last decade? If yes, please describe the most important ones.
3. Has a special body responsible for combating terrorism been established and when?
4. At what level of government is the relevant body set up? If there are several bodies, please describe their position and competences in your country.
5. How is the coordination of analysis and information exchange carried out at different levels of the government? What measures have you implemented to ensure smooth coordination?
6. How is the information received handled by this body?
7. Is the information transferred to other government entities? If yes, is this system efficient, responsive and secure?
8. Are there any special channels of communication established for the above purposes?
9. Do CT structures in your country conduct only analytical work or do they have both analytical and operational authority? If the work encompasses both spheres, does it produce added value?
10. In your view, what are the most significant accomplishments in the development of the CT policy at both national and EU levels?

II PART - CHANGES IN TERRORISM THREAT ANALYSIS

11. Does the body responsible for combating terrorism have information databases and for what type of information?
12. Have the methods of collecting information changed in the last decade?

13. How is the information database maintained? Is the programme used to access the information state owned or commercial? Do you have backup systems in place?
14. What are the methods and tools used for data analysis within the body responsible for countering terrorism?
15. Have the methods and tools of data analysis changed in the last decade? If yes, have you defined methods and tools that work most efficiently when analysing terrorist threats?
16. Is the staff conducting terrorism threat analysis trained regularly for that purpose?
17. Was there an evolution of the terrorism threat analysis after the 9/11 attacks? If yes, please describe the changes.
18. What are the methods of assessing the terrorist threat level in your country?
19. What are the analytical instruments used in your country, in particular:
 - the tools assessing the credibility of the information;
 - the selection of data;
 - the methods of visualizing the analytical output;
 - the methodology of deducing and forecasting.

We kindly ask you to **send your replies by 15 August 2011 at the latest** to the following email addresses: a.kanciak@abw.gov.pl and twg@consilium.europa.eu.
