



Organization for Security and Co-operation in
Europe Council

« Towards a strategy of cooperation between the OSCE
and the European Union to counter terrorism and
cyberwarfare ? »

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I. Introduction

The OSCE took place for the first time in the early 1970's, at the time of the Cold war, when the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) was created to serve as intercommunication between East and West.



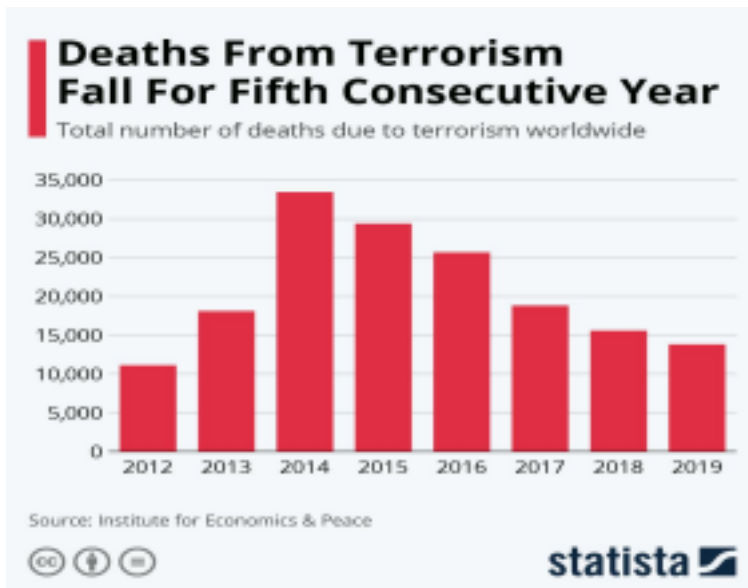
However, with the end of the Cold War and therefore no utility for such organization to exist, the CSCE was set on a new course. The CSCE (later renamed OSCE) was called upon to play its part in managing the historic change taking place in Europe and responding to the new challenges. As of today, the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) is the world's largest regional security organization. With over 57 participating states in North America, Europe and Asia, the OSCE offers peace and stability for billions of people across the globe.

The European Union does share the same values with OSCE in terms of promoting peace, justice and freedom of its citizens. With 27 member states, the EU ensures the free movement of people, goods and services within the international market.

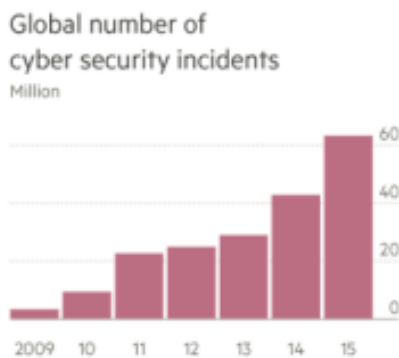


As for the FBI, terrorism stands for a “violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups who are inspired by, or associated with, designated foreign terrorist organizations or nations (state-sponsored)”.

Terrorism may not have started on september the 11th, but that terrible day did change the world. These attacks showed the whole world that terrorism has morphed into a global phenomenon, putting the lives of millions of people at stake. Therefore, some kind of action to counter this violent act had to be put into place.



Shortly after 11 September 2001, the Security Council adopted a resolution to fight against terrorism. That resolution requires all UN Member States, separately and collectively, to deny terrorists safe haven and financial support and to cooperate in bringing them to justice. Even though those resolutions make us move in the right direction, much progress still needs to be made at the national, regional, and international levels.



Technology has evolved very rapidly over the last 80 years. Computers and more specifically the internet are everywhere today. Unfortunately, some people known as hackers are constantly trying to break in the security of the system and use the data for an illegal purpose. This phenomenon is called cyberwarfare.

“Cyberwarfare refers to the use of digital attacks like computer viruses and hacking -- by one country to disrupt the vital computer systems of another, with the aim of creating damage, death and destruction.”

There are plenty of different cyberwarfare scenarios. For example with the banks: one day your bank balance drops to zero and then suddenly leaps up, showing you've got millions in your account. Then all of a sudden the red light turns red when it's not supposed to. Cyberwarfare is extremely dangerous, if not protected, hackers can easily destroy an entire society. Therefore, actions against cyberwarfare are necessary to preserve the security and well being of people :

“Cybersecurity is the protection of internet-connected systems such as hardware, software and data from cyberthreats. The practice is used by individuals and enterprises to protect against unauthorized access to data centers and other computerized systems.”

The human values we share and work to uphold are derided by terrorists and cyberwarfare. The promotion of peace, equality, tolerance, and dignity for all are universal values that transcend our national differences. United as nations and people of the world, we must come together to protect our common humanity and to fight against those in search of power and destruction.



But can we find a solution?

« Towards a strategy of cooperation between the OSCE and the European Union to counter terrorism and cyberwarfare ? »

II. Historical recap of decisions linked to security, terrorism and cyberwarfare

- Détente phase of the **early 1970s** : creation of the **Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE)** → multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation between East and West
- Meeting over two years in Helsinki and Geneva, the CSCE reached agreement on the **Helsinki Final Act**, which was signed on **1 August 1975**. This document contained a number of key commitments on politico-military, economic, environmental and human rights issues that became central to the so-called 'Helsinki process'. It also established ten fundamental principles (the 'Decalogue') governing the behavior of States towards their citizens, as well as towards each other. It is considered as the Organization's founding document.
- Until 1990, the CSCE functioned mainly as a series of meetings and conferences. However, with the end of the Cold War, the **Paris Summit of November 1990** set the CSCE on a new course. In the **Charter of Paris for a New Europe**, the CSCE was called upon to play its part in managing the historic change taking place in Europe and responding to the new challenges of the post-Cold War period, which led to its acquiring permanent institutions and operational capabilities. The Charter of Paris for a new Europe sets the basis for the institutionalization of the Conference in a new decade.
- As part of this institutionalization process, the name was changed from the **CSCE to the OSCE** by a decision of the Budapest Summit of Heads of State or Government in **December 1994**.
- In **November 1999**, **The Istanbul Charter for European Security** strengthened the Organization's ability to prevent conflicts, settle them peacefully, and rehabilitate societies ravaged by war and conflict.
- **2002** : OSCE charter on preventing and combating terrorism - **2004** : Ministerial statement on preventing and combating terrorism - **2006** : Brussels Declaration on Criminal Justice Systems. Ministerial Statement on Supporting and Promoting the International Legal Framework against Terrorism + the participation of the EU in the OSCE was formalized in the **Organization's Rules of**

Procedure

- **2007** : Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security. Ministerial Statement on Supporting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy - In **December 2010, The Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community** reaffirmed the participating States' commitments and adherence to OSCE principles.
- **2015** : Ministerial Declaration on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that lead to Terrorism + Ministerial Declaration on Reinforcing OSCE Efforts to Counter Terrorism in the Wake of Recent Terrorist Attacks
- **2016** : Declaration on strengthening OSCE efforts to prevent and counter terrorism
- **Vienna, 20 April 2021** : annual OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference, organized by Sweden's 2021 OSCE Chairpersonship with the support of the Action against Terrorism Unit of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department. → OSCE's committed to providing a "substantive and comprehensive contribution" to countering terrorism. The point of this meeting was to exchange ideas and strengthen the country's abilities to act together.

→ Since 1975, a number of key documents on Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security have been adopted by the CSCE and the OSCE.

→ Since the beginning of the Helsinki process, the European Communities (EC), and, since 1993, the European Union (EU) have played a vital role in the work of the OSCE. Over the years, the scope of co-operation between the OSCE and the EU has both broadened and deepened, following development of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, and the launch of the first EU crisis management operations under the European Security and Defense Policy. This is together with an increased engagement of the EU in OSCE participating States through the signing of stabilization and association or partnership and co-operation agreements in regions such as the Balkans, the South Caucasus and Eastern Europe. Co-operation is particularly close in the field, where Heads of OSCE field operations regularly liaise and coordinate with relevant EU representatives in the host country. EU representatives on the ground are frequently invited to address the OSCE Permanent Council. The European Union and its member states today are a major source of extra-budgetary funding of OSCE activities in the field.

→ All EU member states are at the same time participating States of the OSCE (there are 57 participating states from Europe, North America and Asia, including all 27 European countries).

III. The OSCE's work:

<https://www.osce.org/atu/17138>

All 57 OSCE participating states coincide in the idea that terrorism is one of the most considerable danger to reach peace and security and consequently the keeping of social a economic growth and human rights. Furthermore the OSCE refuse the linkage of terrorism with any particular nation, religion or ethnicity.

The organization promotes a shared and coordinated passage to combating terrorism at all rungs, containing collaboration among civil governments, cooperation among countries, relationship with relevant international and local associations and, establishment of public private collaboration between state authorities, the private sector,



national society and the media.

The OSCE makes a complete contribution to international action against terrorism directed by the United Nations, handling the incorporations of terrorism, as well as the various social, economic and political might occasion conditions in which terrorist associations could recruit fanatics and acquire support.

These troubles are directed by the United Nations Global CounterTerrorism Strategy and applicable resolutions of the UN Security Council, in accord with the OSCE Consolidated system for the battle against Terrorism.

Overview of OSCE Counter-Terrorism Related Commitments



There have been established strategies focusing on OSCE counterterrorism activities, such as advancing the implementation of the international legal framework against terrorism and consolidating international legal cooperation in criminal contents related to terrorism. Furthermore, combating aggressive extremism and radicalization that guide to terrorism, following a multidimensional passage. Preventing and suppressing the funding of terrorism and fighting the employment of the Internet for terrorist plans. Moreover, advancing dialogue and cooperation on counterterrorism developments, in particular, through public private cooperations between State authorities and the private sector including business, community, and industry as well as

national organizations and the media.

Fortify national issues to administer United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on non proliferation of armaments of mass destruction as well as travel document safeguard and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of counterterrorism measures.

IV. Upcoming challenges

- Security threats have dramatically evolved in the 21st century → no longer confined to national boundaries. New criminal networks tend to be interconnected and organized. The OSCE is responding to these transnational threats with a comprehensive strategy focusing on preventing and countering terrorism, managing borders and keeping them secure, and building modern, democratic and efficient policing.



- The OSCE tackles various cyber threats including cybercrimes and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. A key focus is on the development of confidence building measures (CBMs) between participating States to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs (Information Communication technologies).
- In addition to the cyber/ICT security CBMs, the OSCE and its institutions also focus on tackling cyber/ICT security threats from non-state actors, such as organized criminals and terrorists. A key emphasis here is on promoting adequate and timely responses by national authorities to these evolving threats, ranging from better forensics to innovative approaches to prevent ICTs from becoming tactical facilitators for terrorists.
- Terrorist threats are evolving, citing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of far-right violent extremism, and the increased abuse of the internet for terrorist purposes.

V. List of missions

Almost all field operations of OSCE have been conducted in countries of former Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union :

MISSIONS : DISCONTINUED

- Mission to Georgia (November 1992 – 31 December 2008) closed
- Mission to Estonia (15 February 1993 – 31 December 2001) closed
- Mission to Latvia (19 November 1993 – 31 December 2001) closed
- Mission to Ukraine (24 November 1994 – 30 April 1999) closed
- Representative to the Estonian Expert Commission on Military Pensioners (1994 – 2006) mandate terminated
- Liaison Office in Central Asia (16 March 1995 – June 1995) closed
- Representative to the Joint Committee on the Skrunda Radar Station (6 April 1995 – 31 October 1999) disbanded
- Assistance Group to Chechnya (26 April 1995 – 16 December 1998) closed
- Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Dayton Article IV (1995 – 2015) discontinued
- Mission to Croatia (July 1996 – December 2007) closed
- Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus (January 1998 – 31 December 2002) closed
- Kosovo Verification Mission (October 1998 – June 1999) closed
- Office in Yerevan (16 February 2000 – 31 August 2017) closed
- Office in Baku (2014 – 31 December 2015) closed
- Office in Minsk (1 January 2003 – 31 March 2011) closed

ACTIVE

- Presence in Albania (since 1997)
- Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (since 1995, Dayton Agreement)
- Mission in Kosovo (since 1999)
- Mission to Montenegro
- Mission to Serbia (since 2001)
- Mission to Skopje (since 2001, Ohrid Agreement (in the agreement Republic of Macedonia, today North Macedonia))
- Mission to Moldova (since 1992, Transnistrian conflict)
- Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (since 1993, the 1993-94 Crimean crisis)
- Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (since 2014, the 2014 Russian aggression against Ukraine)
- Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk (since 2014, the 2014 Russian



aggression against Ukraine)

- Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference (since 1995, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict)
- Centre in Ashgabat (Turkmenistan)
- Programme Office in Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan)
- Programme Office in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)
- Programme Office in Dushanbe (Tajikistan)
- Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Cyber-attacks

- 2007 : the Estonian parliament, ministries and banks were subjected to a cyber attack. → June 2015 : OSCE mission to Serbia → to analyze the strategic importance of cybersecurity for society and Serbia as a whole. It will also focus on international experiences in this field and possible steps for developing a strategic framework for cybersecurity in Serbia
- 2016 : The OSCE Project Co-ordinator is helping Ukraine to respond to and confront this security challenge by training and equipping the next generation of cyber police officers.

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