

Commission: OSCE

Subject: Towards a strategy of cooperation between the OSCE and the European Union to encounter terrorism and cyberwarfare?

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH) is a country located in the South East of Europe, in the region of the Balkans. The country is bordered by Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia, all of them ex-members of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In the early 1990's, Bosnia was engulfed in a violent civil war as a result of the breakup of the aforementioned Yugoslavia. Nowadays and as a result of the Dayton Peace Agreement, Bosnia is divided into two entities and is ruled by three presidents belonging to the three main existing ethnicities in the country. Due to the harsh requests of the EU, Bosnia and Herzegovina has not been able to join neither the EU nor NATO. Nonetheless, the Country is part of the OSCE and in fact, was helped by this organization to overcome its war-like past.

At the moment, the country's peace is under threat because of many inter-regional political tensions in addition to external crises.

Since the terrorist attacks of 11/9, the international climate has completely changed and many, not to say the majority of democratic systems, have adopted resolutions to fight against terrorism. By mid 2009, the security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was significantly impacted by some regional and global violent acts and intolerance, which affected interethnic relations and general safety of the population. The current situation is quite similar, not only in our country, but in other countries as well: the threat of potential terrorist attacks has grown in all countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina. That is why, actions should be taken, and countries should be united in order to encounter terrorist attacks, war attempts and cyberwarfare.

Since the beginning of the division of Yugoslavia, the countries in the Balkan region, have been subdued to an endless fight because of their religious and ethnic differences, as well as a catastrophic economic situation. These disagreements between the old Yugoslav regions, resulted in the Yugoslav Wars during the 1990's and early 2000's. In the case of our country, in 1995, the OSCE interfered into the local conflict, with the "Dayton Peace Agreement", a peace accord that put an end to the 3/1/2-year-long Bosnian War.

Since the application of the Dayton Accords, the EU with the help of other organizations including the OSCE, have ensured the correct implementation of the agreement that we have already mentioned. However, Bosnia's diplomatic peace is currently under threat. The past tensions have not been extinguished and nowadays, the tripartite government, is at risk. The security situation in the country is heavily burdened by various problems, which is manifested, through nationalism or religion-driven acts of intolerance, provocations and even violence. Due to the deep global economic crisis, it is expected not only that all forms of violent activities in BH persist but that they intensify.

Although the media often links Bosnia and Herzegovina to terrorism, through its institutional development and reforms and the active fight against terrorism, locally and globally, the country has proved its commitment to fighting all types of terrorist activities. As said in many occasions, any form of terrorism directed against Bosnia and Herzegovina would be an intolerable threat to the country's fundamental values and interests as it would directly affect security and lives of its citizens. Therefore, Bosnia and Herzegovina's priority is to develop comprehensive measures, national and international, for the prevention of all forms of terrorism.

BiH has also declared its willingness to join EU activities on the suppression of terrorism, including the harmonization of its legislation, signing relevant protocols, and the adoption of concrete action plans.

A relatively new trend in terrorism and attacks with a violent goal, is the abuse of cyber technology by extreme radical subjects such as individuals, groups, organizations etc. Some indications show that cyber technology is used by individuals for purposes which have or may not have political implications. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, this type of terrorism is often used to spread radical ideology, to indoctrinate potential followers, to distribute propaganda, support global terrorist organizations and more. Even though cyber technology is a fairly new phenomenon, the situation could worsen up in the next few years, and our country could be a victim of the so called phenomenon "Cyberwarfare". If this occurred, international organizations such as the EU and the OSCE would be in terrible danger. BH is undeniably surrounded by European countries and if the political situation got worse, it would have a terrible impact on these countries. Bosnia remains the only South Eastern European country without a comprehensive cyber security strategy at the state level, and if dangerous cyber activities were

developed in our country, it would cause a bigger and global problem. When a country is attacked, other country's security systems are at risk.

In order to successfully counter cyber terrorism, cyberwarfare and in general, violent crimes, based on existing experiences plus the existing security structure of the local and global situation, it is required to take certain general steps in order to reduce potential risks to a minimum and gradually shrink the available room for possible attacks.

Decisions and changes must be taken, such as the vigilance of suspicious activities or radical movements whose behavior could lead to any form of violence, the implementation of a strategy that prevents violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms guaranteed by international conventions and regulations, the improvement of the education in the areas of counterterrorism and the low rate of specialized training, the development of a control system and sanctions against persons who have criminal records related to terrorism, the prevention of incitement and recruitment in sensitive or isolated communities and more.

In conclusion, Bosnia and Herzegovina fully agrees on a cooperation between the EU and the OSCE to fight against cyberwarfare, terrorism and its devastating consequences. Even though our country is not in the EU, yet is a possible candidate and is in favor of an european unit, it has been involved in many decisions and missions organized by the OSCE to ensure peace. Although the current political and security situation in BH is under and undeniable chaos, we consent and would like to take part in alliances and cooperations between countries, and participate in the collaboration between the EU and the OSCE, in order to eradicate the local violence and avoid possible attacks in our country, but also to help our future allies when needed.