

Commission: OSCE

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

Author: Croatia

Due to the fact that Croatia, a unitary democratic parliamentary republic, forms part of the European Union, our country strongly approves the idea of a cooperation between the OSCE and the European Union in order to counter terrorism and cyberwarfare. Croatia is led by prime minister Andrej Plenković, a pro-european and centre-right politician.

Given that technology is evolving at a rapid pace and, even though this can be said in a positive way, it also comes with great consequences. Cyber attacks are evolving and harming our country and our union. Croatia has suffered from dozens of state-sponsored cyber attacks in 2020, most of them attempting to break into the information and communication system of the foreign and European affairs ministry. These attacks were directed towards NATO and EU member states. Moreover the number of cyber-security incidents, or more commonly known as cyber attacks in Croatia, rose by 65 percent in 2020.

Knowing that Croatia, being part of the European Union, shares the same values with the OSCE in terms of promoting peace, freedom and justice, a cooperation between the two might be beneficial.

The OSCE, having already helped and supported our country throughout our achievements such as obtaining a NATO membership, a successful EU candidacy, a stable society and working democratic system, significant progress in resettling Serb and other refugees, improved relations with once hostile neighbours and a growing economy at a time of economic crisis, could be of a great advantage for the European Union. The third of January 2003 marks the date of an interview where Peter Semneby, Head of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Croatia, explains that they are "Assisting Croatia to Fulfil the Conditions for European Integration" The OSCE began operations in Croatia after the signing of the Erdut Agreement in November 1995, which ended the war that started in 1991. The OSCE's Mission had as its main objective to work with the government and others to protect human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, to promote reconciliation and the rule of law in a difficult post-conflict environment. Seeing as the OSCE managed to show great changes in the past, Croatia would be interested in cooperation with the European Union.

The risk of terrorist attacks in Croatia over the past years can be classified as practically nonexistent given that over the past 5 years a total number of 1 terrorist incident has been recorded, in which 1 person was injured. However, regardless of the fact that Croatia suffers little to no terrorism that cannot be said for the rest of the countries in the European Union, therefore we must find solutions for both matters. There are three main cyber attacks that affect us: first off, misinformation or in other words "fake news" it is a widely known attack that affects many people however it becomes a threat when politicians and people in power become victims of these attacks. Another cyberwarfare example is the creation of damage to systems with viruses, hackers are responsible for these extremely harmful attacks. Finally, DDOS is one of the most common cyberattacks and may not cause a lot of damage but it's enough, it consists of hackers setting up bots to collapse websites. We must find a way to cesce these actions and to achieve this we must train our staff to demonstrate how you must keep our systems safe, adequately trained hackers may also be of much help due to the fact that they possess the most knowledge. IT is necessary to put in place good cybersecurity to keep data secure and an alert system to be able to spread information about any cyber attack and prepare. As a country from the European Union we view that the OSCE could be also a great solution to cyberwarfare, it would be capable of helping any country shut down cyber attacks and would eliminate problems faster.

An alliance between the OSCE and the European Union could only bring advantages and a chance to live at peace and fight together against terrorism, it would guarantee security and benefits to our government and enforce our European democratic values, peace, justice and freedom Therefore, Croatia strongly aproves and supports the idea of a strategy of cooperation between the OSCE and the European Union to counter terrorism and cyberwarfare.