

Country: Czech Republic-Slovakia

Commission: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Council (OSCE)

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

The Czech Republic is a landlocked country in Central Europe. It's bordered by Poland to the north, Germany to the west, Austria to the south and Slovakia to the east. The Czech Republic entered NATO in 1999, joined the European Union on the 1st of January 2004 and is a full member of the OSCE. The country is a parliamentary republic and is ruled by the Democratic and Civic Party, a liberal-conservative and eurosceptic party, under president Miloš Zeman since 2013.

Slovakia is a landlocked country in Central Europe. It's bordered by Poland to the north, Ukraine to the east, Hungary to the south, Austria to the southwest, and the Czech Republic to the northwest. Slovakia entered NATO and the European Union in 2004 and is a full member of the OSCE. The country is a parliamentary republic ruled by the Ordinary People and Independent Personalities party, a populist and pro-european party, under president Zuzana Čaputová since 2019.

Terrorism has been a challenging issue during the last 50 years for the european countries. This is the reason why the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe was created in 1985. But the numerous attacks in european countries since the beginning of the past decade and the rise of cybercrime and cyberterrorism, especially coming from Russia, aiming to destabilize our countries, a strategy of cooperation between the OSCE and the European Union to face terrorism and cyberwarfare is needed.

Even if the Czech Republic and Slovakia have never suffered any terrorist attacks in their recent history, activities related to money laundering with the objective to finance terrorism are a real issue in our countries. The politics to fight money laundering and terrorism financing have been for this reason important points of the political programs of our governments and significant improvements have been made in our countries as shown by the MONEYVAL reports of 2021 which include the fight against organized crime, corruption and cybercrime. Even though Slovakia is not at the very top of this domaine, Czech Republic is a great example of a european country who passed from a big center of money-laundering in Europe to a country with strong anti-terrorist financing policies. Nevertheless, with the victory of the Ordinary People and Independent Personalities party in Slovakia in 2019, the fight against corruption and criminal groups in the country has significantly increased, as being one of the main objectives of the government.

Even if the approaches to fight terrorism and cybercrime of our two countries are very different, not to say opposite, an agreement can be made in the way to counter these two issues.

Firstly the strategy has to focus on the fight against the financing of these activities made through money-laundering in our own countries. For this reason each country has to lead its own internal fight against criminal organizations and implement strong anti-corruption laws to be able to prosecute any individual or organization doing suspicious activities that could lead to terrorist-financing. This internal fight can be led by the European Union through cooperation between the police forces of all the country members and making sure that all the country members follow the MONEYVAL guidelines.

Secondly, to fight against cyberwarfare and to be able to protect public institutions, private organizations or companies and individuals from hacks and cyber attacks coming from criminal groups, individuals or other countries such as Russia. Common campaigns of awareness, education and formation have to be implemented in the countries of the European Union and the OSCE following a common guideline decided by the two organizations. This will increase the levels of cybersecurity in European countries and help to protect our governments and citizens from foreign attempts to destabilize our societies and steal information from European citizens, governments, banks and companies.