

Commission: OSCE

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

Country: Georgia

Terrorism has been a latent issue at a global scale since the last two decades. Solutions have been looked for, and surely (and thankfully) provided. We nowadays have organizations such as the OSCE to preach for safety and solidarity in Europe; but while each country tries its best to protect its citizens, a new war field is being created. Because of the quick development of new technologies, attacks can now be realized virtually. Cyberwarfare is recent and surprisingly easy to hide, those two factors make it a dangerous weapon as there isn't any well-based knowledge about how to counter it. Organizations, groups and forces responsible of our safety seem to be struggling to control both of these dangers. That is why, we once again need solutions, one of the possible being union: different organizations and countries could form an alliance to strive towards common interests.

Georgia being a victim of terrorist attacks, a European and democratic country, as well as a country of transit for terrorists, a member of the OSCE and a candidate to join the EU; fully supports the idea of a dialog between these two forces and must have its place in a debate such as this one.

Our country might appear to be sitting in the position of a requirer more than a provider because of the tensions emerging from the various ethnic and religious groups cohabitating in Georgia and the terrorist attacks in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, but still, we are perfectly able to bring help in matters of urgency.

In fact, Georgia has been excelling at defending itself and other countries against terrorism since 1994, the year of creation of our efficient Special State Protection Service, which has been the first to engage in high risk operations, both nationally and internationally until 2001 after losing an undisclosed number of soldiers. It has ever since been regularly improving its facilities and equipment, resulting in Georgia being an active member and advisor to the global counterterrorism coalition, constantly participating in multinational operations. This militarized government agency has primarily the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia as backup but also the Ministry of Defense of Georgia and the Intelligence Service of Georgia. It is consequently undebatable that our country is prepared to eradicate terrorism and any new form of violence.

Georgia is a country where the risk of a terrorist attack taking place is low, however since 2008, fears of heavy Russian military presence have increased and so has the number of security measures. Currently, Georgia is using its advanced means to make acts of interference in other countries as it intends to harmonize its internal legislation with international law, in particular with the measures established by the Security Council's resolution 1373 (2001). An example of it would be the cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, created by the previously mentioned resolution. This collaboration exists not only at an international level but also at a regional level with Georgia's presence and participation in the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and GUUAM (organization of international collaboration between Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova).

Whereas our country has undeniable assets to fight against terrorism, it is becoming increasingly obvious that we are lacking advances in technology to do research on malware and control it efficiently. Moreover, Georgia, even with its greatest powers and means, would not be able to fully resist another Russian attack. In order to achieve these objectives (controlling malware and resisting a Russian offensive), help from other institutions and countries is required, which could only come from an alliance. If formed successfully, it should bring a balance between counterterrorism and cyberwarfare control that would guide us towards security. We believe that the most effective cooperation would be the one where the parties are the EU and the OSCE as the countries partaking in these institutions are mostly from the same continent and all have different qualities to put on the table that complement each other amazingly. In addition, the EU spreads a message of solidarity within its components, which are already used to a dynamic based on trust and collective work.

If this hypothetical alliance takes place, the objectives could be attained by a common legislation gathering laws and normative acts adopted by the allied. Then, a reinforcement of controls concerning travel document security, zones known to be conflicted and prone to extremism and acts of intimidation, suspicious economic activity and possession of weapons must take place. The amounts of virtualized data should be controlled as well so that cases of leaks of private information are minimized.

To conclude, the democratic republic of Georgia gives its full consent and support to the possible alliance between the EU and the OSCE to counter terrorism and cyberwarfare. We have the means and intentions to protect others but the danger of Russian pressure is not to be forgotten, therefore our country wants the other parties of the alliance to bring help when needed as well, meaning that the democratic republic of Georgia engages in this collaboration as long as mutuality is assured.