

Commission: OSCE

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

Author: The Netherlands

The Netherlands are a country in the north of Europe, bordering Belgium and Germany, we are European Union members and OSCE participants. The capital is Amsterdam and the political center is The Hague. The port of Rotterdam is the largest port in Europe and an economic center. The total population is near 18 millions, of which 6 percent represents the muslim community. The Netherlands are a parliamentary monarchy governed by a coalition of center right parties led by the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD), a liberal party, and the current Prime Minister of The Netherlands is Mark Rutte, the minister of Justice and Security is Dilan Yesilgöz-Zegerius.

As a country that has been threatened by the islamic terrorism several times and have suffered terrible attacks against our institutions, our values and our liberty. We also recognise the role played by new technologies in the terrorist menace. The Netherlands are disposed and ready to collaborate with other countries and participate in the combined project between the European Union and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to plan a strategy of cooperation against terrorism and cyberwarfare.

The Netherlands is working to combat terrorism by different kind of methods. The counterterrorism mission in The Netherlands has been assigned to the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security (NCTV). The objective of the NCTV is to maintain national security and order, and protect our country and also to take measures right after these terrible acts are committed. So, the counterterrorism activities are divided in two steps, preventing attacks , and, if these get to happen, post-attack activities are seated. About jihadist terrorism, The Netherlands are aware that it represents a major threat to national security and democracy in Europe but also for all the muslims countrys that suffers it. Our country also recognise that jihadism only represent a small part of the Islam that muslims want. With that, the measures taken do not have a point on discriminating them and only want to minize jihadist threat.

One of the measures taken for reduce terrorist threat is the security of potential targets. Our government takes security measures to protect people and organizations that could become the target of attacks like representative monuments, tourist attractions, institutional places and all kinds of reunion sites whose destruction could cause damage in our society. This reduces the chances of a terrorist attack. An important part of the counterterrorism work is to recognise and prevent radicalisation. In this way, it is possible to stop terrorism in time even before that attacks are planned. Some of the ways the Dutch government is fighting against radicalisation are educating young people to be more critical so that they are less susceptible to propaganda that may be seen in the Internet, assisting families of radicalised young people, working with the muslim community to expulse radicals and persecuting people who try to radicalise people or incite them to commit terrorists acts and also removing nationality to suspects that join terrorist organisations in dangerous countries. There is also a part of cyberwarfare problematic with this, because most of the radicalization of young people is made by terrorists groups on the Internet. Some measures taken to fight against this are, countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and websites that aim to transmit terrorist speech and call for commit these kind of acts are taken down.

A very important component in the fight against terrorism is working with international associations and countries to share information on terrorism. The Netherlands wants to improve international cooperation and sharing of information with the aim to combat terrorism. The Dutch government agree with the OSCE in promoting a co-operative and co-ordinated approach to reject terrorism at all levels, including co-ordination between national authorities, co-operation between states, co-operation with relevant international organizations, and, when needed establishment of public-private partnerships between state authorities, the private sector, civil society and the media.

The Netherlands know and are conscious of the level of digitization in the actual world, this brings great economic and social opportunities. We also are aware of the importance of digital tools in our modern society so cybersecurity is as important as well. Technology is now everywhere, states focus on digital economic and political espionage. A cyberattack against our network could have

serious consequences in the economy, locally and worldwide and the functioning of the society. So, cybercrime is an increasing threat nowadays. In order to continue to take advantage of the opportunities technology bring to us, measures are necessary to keep the digital world safe and secure. In 2018 the Dutch authorities caught four Russian agents with the mission of hacking the Wi-Fi network of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague in order to get access to classified documents on chemical weapons. This only represents a small part of the danger as we all can suffer a cyberattack in our daily lives.

The Dutch government created in 2018 the The National Cyber Security Agenda (NCSA) in order to combat cyber threats our country might face. The objectives in this agenda are to give the Netherlands digital capabilities to detect, mitigate and respond decisively to cyber threats, contribute to international peace and security in the digital domain, giving The Netherlands digitally secure hardware and software, having successful barriers against cybercrime, lead the way in the field of cybersecurity knowledge development, develop an integrated and strong public-private approach to cybersecurity with co-operation.

So, the Netherlands are a country concerned about the issues that the OSCE is suggesting. The Dutch government know the importance of counter-terrorism and cyberwar in our world and has taken measures to prevent and fight against terrorism. We also believe that international cooperation is needed to preserve liberty and democracy in our country and we are sure that the European Union members and OSCE participants agree with that.