

Norway

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Council

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

Norway's TPG

Norway's current government is a constitutional monarchy. The king is Harald V. Currently and since the reshuffle of 2021, the Prime Minister is Jonas Gahr Støre and his government is mostly composed of ministers from the AP (the social party) and the SP (the center party).

The commission in which the Norway takes part today is the OSCE and the problematic is the following : Towards a strategy of cooperation between the OSCE and the European Union to counter terrorism and cyberwarfare ? The Norwegian ministers involved in this issue are therefore the petrol and the energy minister, Marte Mjøs Persen, and the justice and public security minister, Emilie Engehr Mehl.

The problems and issues raised by this problematic seem rather obvious to us. Indeed, technology takes a more prominent role in today's society. More and more services are computerized and therefore vulnerable to cyberwarfare. It is therefore important to set up measures to fight against this phenomenon. In terms of terrorism, every members of the OSCE know that it becomes a bigger menace everyday for all of us. It is imperative to adapt to this threat and to strengthen the agreements linking the OSCE and the EU in order to defend ourselves against this terrorism.

Today, when we speak about terrorism, we usually think of jihadism. So far, Norway has not been the victim of any jihadist attack. This does not mean that Norway is spared from terrorism. Indeed, the predominant terrorism form in our country is the XRW, extreme right wing, terrorism. On July 22, 2011, the West experienced the first ever XRW attack on Utoya island, a little Norwegian island. During this attack, a right-wing supporter, Anders Breivik, killed 69 people who were supporters of left-wing parties. This phenomenon, born on the island of Utoya, unfortunately did not stop that day and continued until today and is responsible for other disasters like the one in Christchurch on March 15, 2019.

When it comes to cyberwarfare, Norway is also very concerned. Indeed, Norway's economy is essentially based on petrol and gas business. With the actual crisis in Ukraine and Russia, a lot of countries have approached us and asked us to supply them with oil and gas. Oil and gas distribution international networks rely on a lot of mechanics. It therefore seems obvious to us, for Norway and Europe in general, that we should strengthen the defense of these international distribution networks so that they are no longer vulnerable to cyberwarfare and attacks on scada (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition).

So far, Norway has already seen an increase in the preparations and capacity of its police to counter potential terrorist attacks. We have also put a lot of emphasis on prevention. Norway also fully supports the Christchurch call, which wants to get social networking to be more vigilant about extremist propaganda on their platforms. Norway would like to see further measures of this kind between Europe and the OSCE. With regard to cyber warfare, Norway is fully convinced that the EU and the OSCE should set up cooperative measures to protect themselves. Not only for oil and gas distribution networks, but also for banks and administrative networks that are becoming more and more computerized.

In summary, Norway is particularly concerned with the problems of the commission. Norway will be involved in the discussions in order to lead the OSCE member countries to a safer life.