

**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?

**Author:** Russia

The Russian Federation is a democratic, federative, law-based state with a republican form of government, led by our President Vladimir Putin who has successfully guided our country throughout the challenges of the Contemporary times. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, we renamed ourselves and proudly have achieved to form the largest country in the world, occupying one-tenth of the land on all the Earth. Our territory has coasts on three oceans (the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic) and englobes two different continents (EU and Asia, also known as Eurasia) which are reflected in our wide diversity that we are proud to showcase. Russia aims to collaborate against the growing dangers of terrorism and cyberwarfare and as a symbol of prosperity, we have been part of the OSCE since the early 1970's (URSS dissolution) in order to establish a firm dialogue between the West and the East. With the help of its institutions, expert units and a strengthened link with the European Union, we actively contribute to this security forum (backed by 57 global nations, containing all of the EU states) who bridges differences and build trust between states in order to promote global peace in those difficult times (pandemic, Ukrainian military actions etc...).

As a pacific state which endorses and promotes worldwide unity and peace, we strongly condemn those who endanger our societies with the expansion of terror and modern weapons (cyber-criminal warfare). We thoroughly think that terrorism and cybertechnology are destructive assets who can escalate into international conflicts as seen during the 11S World Trade Centre attack in NY, committed by the Al-Qaeda radical Islamic organization. With the exponential development of modern technology reflected in a wider adoption around emerging and undeveloped countries, we find the necessity to enhance greater measures to prevent national cybersecurity threats; an example, of its potential danger was the 2007 Estonia DDOS Cyber Attack who shut down around 60 governmental sites resulting in a chaotic situation for the administrative departments and the military forces. We consider our country as the world cradle of cybersecurity, so we focus on developing and promoting the safe use of technologies. In the midst of the conflict against the State of Ukraine, to prevent Nazification and the development of an authoritarian regime, we are collaborating with different qualified "freelancers" to fight against digital propaganda. Symbolised by the Beslan School Siege in 2004, terrorism also affects our country nowadays. With the help of the Federal Security Service of Russian Federation (FBS), we have detected dozens of terrorist's groups who represent a threat against our nation. Even if we are not part of the EU, we find the urge to collaborate with their services in the goal of preventing the expansion of those menaces.

As a key and strategic nation, we act as a middleman between the Western states, represented by the EU, and the Eastern States commanded by China who is one of our allies. Our position against terrorism and cyber-warfare is extremely clear; even if we do not share some of the values, promoted by the European Union (such as uncontrolled freedom of expression), we understand the necessity of this dialogue held during the OSCE. Being one of the founders, of this organization is a reminiscent advantage in order to maintain relationships with our strategic partners: our leader Vladimir Putin, said during the the twelfth Russian-European Union summit that we are "interested in developing relations with our partners in the US and the American continent as a whole and in Asia, but, of course above all with Europe" as they remain a major trade ally and global security partner. The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), signed more than 20 years ago in June 1994 serve as the gal basis for our nation and the EU. This agreement has been updated in 2015 (London) but the main points (security, trade system) remain the system, even during these times of tensions, where we are confronted to some of their nations. Furthermore, our legal standards are pretty clear and objective when they address terrorism: as written in the Federal Law n.35, counteraction to terrorism in the RF is based on fundamental principles such as "ensuring and protecting civil human rights and prioritizing the protection of rights and legitimate interests of persons at risk of being affected by terrorism". Therefore, co-operation with the EU remains a priority and we are willing to develop negotiations with the objective of having a uniformed legal system. Cybersecurity is not a standalones concept but part of national information security, which aim to prevent personal leaking of data and the ability of certain individuals

to sell this information with a lucrative intention. We do not interpret “cyber-attacks” as described by the EU, as we consider our IT infrastructure safe enough to prevent those attacks that are most of the time done internally and severely punished by the Federal Law.

We respectively take measures against those threats and are continuously aiming to protect the sovereignty of our nation: the dissolution of the URSS, resulted in a reconstruction of new borders, which enhanced a climax of political tensions around the Eastern zone. Indeed, internal and military conflicts such as the one “Chechenia” led to the outbreak of a war and terrorist attacks against our territory. As a result, we organized an important military strategy with the aim of defeating any kind of resistance of those who committed attacks against the hospital of “Boudionnovsk”. Moreover, after an official request by the Syrian government for military aid, we proceeded to deploy our forces in order to support the administration of the President Bashar al-Assad. We launched airstrikes inside Syrian regions occupied by rebels (National Coalition, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), al-Nusra Front (al-Qaeda in Syria) and the Army of Conquest). By the end of 2017, our intervention showed a major progression and produced significant gains as we recaptured the strategic city of Palmyra. We have also reformed our security standards against automatic threats lead by AI and unknown technologies (DDOS attack). We remain as one of the safest countries in this matter and decline any accusation made towards us regarding the 2016 US electoral vote nor the Ukrainian cyber-attacks in order to prevent their citizens of making any transaction related with the Russian Federation. We are currently investigating autonomous organizations who proceed to attack individuals from our territory but most of the information can't be unfolded and shared by the authorities. What's very clear from our side, is that we will respond respectively to any coordinated attack against our government; we are already implementing sanctions against social-media platforms who don't respect the privacy of our citizens (Facebook for example). We aim to work with the EU authorities in order to prevent this event from happening again and we are willing to share some of our latest research advancements on this subject. We are conscious that during those times, the dialogue between the RF and the EU is getting more difficult as their countries menace us collectively and accuse our nation of committing humanitarian crimes which are completely false.

As a conclusion, we do think that we have to collaborate with them if we want to progress in both of the domains; as a former founder of the OSCE we will accept to work with the EU, but the Russian Federation remains very clear. If the accusations that are addressed towards us are not removed, we will not make additional efforts and share our knowledge. We already have given them resources and ask for a correct treatment from their side. Terrorism and cyber-warfare will increasingly affect our society, and, we therefore, need to work as a group with the OSCE to counter the different threats.