

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

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

Author : Switzerland

Switzerland is a European country with a federal republic as a form of government. Since 2011 the leading parties are from the right wing, such as the most popular party, The Swiss People's party, that holds the most seats in the Federal Assembly. The latter shares the legislative power between its two chambers, the National Council and the Council of States. Switzerland is most known from its uncommon tradition of direct democracy. The people play a big role in the government of their country, a similar role to the constitutional court that does not exist, this means that they're in charge of the law. This phenomenon is most shown through referendums, which are mandatory in case of any alteration of the constitution, and can always be requested.

Regarding the OSCE (*Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Council*) Switzerland has had a Permanent Delegation to the organization in Vienna since 1993, a delegation that serves the purpose of representing the interests and concerns of the country. An ambassador heads this delegation and its staff are actively involved in the work of the OSCE in three dimensions; which are, the politico-military dimension, the economic and environmental dimension and the human dimension. We'll then focus on the goal toward a strategy of cooperation between countries of the OSCE and the European Union in order to counter terrorism and cyberwarefare.

In the 21st century, the OSCE has focused on security threats that increase each day due to the growth of technology and its evolution in our current society. This tool is now used by criminal networks and is a threat to the security that the organization tries to provide its actively involved countries. The matter of export of conventional arms and related technology has been discussed in the Forum for Security Co-operation in Vienna for the past 6 years in which Switzerland has participated and made a report on. According to its latest report we see that the manufacture, brokerage, export and transit of war material shall be authorized if it does not go against international law, obligations and principles of the Swiss foreign policy.

Some of the priorities of the Swiss government are the prevention of torture, the respect of human rights and minorities in the 'war on terror', as well as the inclusion of civil society into OSCE procedures. We can also underline the basic principles and policies that are followed by Switzerland such as the maintenance of peace, international security and regional stability. Regarding national practices on the export of arms, the situation in the country of destination has to have respect for human rights and for the non-use of child soldiers. The Swiss nation has made a lot of efforts regarding the area of development cooperation and more specifically prioritizing countries of destination that are listed in the current OECD-DAC list as one of the least developed countries and are most in need of development aid. Regarding conditions for countries that shall not be granted licenses for export trade are conditions such as if the country of destination is currently involved in an internal or international armed conflict, if they violate human rights in a systematic and serious manner or if there is a high risk of the exported war material is going to be used against civilian population.

In 2021 the swiss voted on the Federal act to extend police measures to combat terrorism, with nearly 57% of Swiss supporting the new law. This will allow the police to take preventive measures against potential terrorists without judicial oversight. Most importantly, it grants the country

to keep fighting terrorism and cyberwarfare preventing any further conflicts, in order to secure the health of our population, as well as the stability of the democratic state and sovereignty.