

Commission : OSCE

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

Author : The Vatican

We are an independent city-state and enclave located within Rome, Italy. The Vatican City State, also known simply as the Vatican, we became independent from Italy with the Lateran Treaty (1929), and we are a distinct territory under "full ownership, exclusive dominion, and sovereign authority and jurisdiction" of the Holy See, itself a sovereign entity of international law, which maintains the city state's temporal, diplomatic, and spiritual independence. With an area of 49 hectares (121 acres) and a population of about 825, we are the smallest state in the world by both area and population. As governed by the Holy See, the Vatican City State is an ecclesiastical or sacerdotal-monarchical state (a type of theocracy) ruled by the pope who is the bishop of Rome and head of the Catholic Church. The highest state functionaries are all Catholic clergy of various national origins. After the Avignon Papacy (1309–1377) the popes have mainly resided at the Apostolic Palace within what is now Vatican City, although at times residing instead in the Quirinal Palace in Rome or elsewhere.

It is a matter of serious concern that terrorist organizations misuse, among others, religious narratives in order to increase support and achieve objectives that are political, economic, worldly and short-sighted. Terrorism is a fundamentalism incapable of accepting the peaceful coexistence of different ethnic and religious groups, different ideas and cultures. Due to the great number of Islamic terrorist plots, The Vatican has suffered over the last years and the many cyberattacks we have received from China in order to get a hold of our most precious informations, The Vatican greatly opposes terrorism as well as cyber attacks and believe the European Union and OSCE should put in place a number of various countermeasures in order to prevent these attacks from ever happening again. The European Union has been facing on its own many terrorist plots, that's why we believe the we should work alongside the OSCE and further develop our relationship in order to face these problems as one. As mentioned before, The Vatican totally supports this cooperation and would like for it to be settled as soon as possible in order to improve the security of our great community.

The Vatican will fully support the European Union and OSCE in making these measures operational and will spare no resources in order to achieve a European Union free of fear regarding terrorism and cyber attacks. Countermeasures should be ready quickly because time is valuable and The Vatican doesn't have much time to waste as we are even now fending off numerous cyber attacks and we are simultaneously taking care of churches and priests all around Europe. We would also like to ensure the security of these in order to not allow things such as the terrorist attack to a church in Nice, France, be repeated, 3 people ended up dead because of it. We believe that working alongside the OSCE and the European Union we could finally achieve peace and be set free of the constant fear of possible terrorist attacks. The Catholic Church, through the various religious orders and Catholic NGOs, will continue to remain engaged in countering harmful narratives that can give rise to violent extremism and radicalization, in helping victims to rebuild their future, in supporting rehabilitation and reintegration programs and in contributing to construct and maintain peaceful societies.

Our country would like to propose several courses of action that should be taken into account in order to achieve our final goal. It is self-evident that a long-term, comprehensive response to this phenomenon cannot rely merely on law-enforcement or security measures, but also requires that nations promote tolerance, mutual respect, dialogue and a culture of encounter. That approach, together with the authentic teachings of religions, would effectively contribute to address the root causes of terrorism, and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. Firstly, we would like to suggest a security improvement in all religious zones and buildings, due to the fact that they tend to be the main objective of Islamic terrorist attacks. We would also hope political and important religious figures would be protected as they are the target of many forces that oppose our religion and beliefs, we will not allow such behaviour and we believe they should be punished for attempting to harm not only people but also what they believe in. Data banks where the top secret information is stored should also be checked and improved. We would also like to assign capable people to fight against Chinese cyber attacks and make them our last line of defense against these. And while it may not be Europe's biggest concern, we take very seriously the lives and security of every believer of our religion and believe that every country's government should put some effort in improving the ties with the OSCE in order to make them our best ally in fighting terrorism and preventing situations that

would endanger people's lives. It also requires that individual nations commit to nurturing a culture of encounter that fosters mutual respect and dialogue, both cornerstones of peaceful and inclusive societies,

In conclusion, our country would like to summarize everything mentioned before by stating anew that we will strongly oppose terrorism and we, The Vatican will never surrender. We firmly believe the international community should be more engaged with local groups that are at the forefront of counterterrorism efforts when it comes to prevention and providing youth programs, education, employment and rehabilitation. We will like to cooperate with the OSCE in hope of reaching a better ending and making every citizen rest with ease by knowing that they should no longer fear terrorism and will all be safe now.