

cydc2019 | EU





Director's Letter

Dear Delegates,

My name is Lincoln Lee and I have the honour to serve as the Director of the European Union at CYDCMUN 2019. I am a Grade 10 student at Port Moody Secondary School, and I have been involved in MUN since grade 9. I was first introduced to Model United Nations in the small confines of a club mock session. From there, I have been immensely fortunate to improve various skills and be introduced to Business Competitions, Debate, and countless individuals who have now become my closest friends. I hope MUN will serve you as well as it has for me and encourage you to pursue a passion for diplomacy.

With me will be my Chair Brendon Huang, and Assistant Director Mikael Borres. Here are a few remarks from them:

My name is Brendon Huang, and I am excited to serve as Chair of the EU. I have developed an appreciation for MUN over 4 years of my high school career, which has personally affected me in several ways. Gaining new experiences was the thing I looked forward to most whenever I attended a MUN conference. Regardless of the amount of experience you have, I hope you come to have a fun time and gain insight into the world of MUN!

Hello, my name's Mikael Borres, and I'm elated to serve as the Assistant Director for CYDCMUN's EU committee. Model United Nations has enraptured my mind about global politics and diplomacy. I'll never forget the invaluable moments and excitement, and I hope to share my passions with other like-minded individuals. Whether you're a veteran delegate or a first-time participant, do expect a great experience that's full of debate and fun!

This year, the European Union will discuss the ongoing threat of terrorist attacks. It is a prevalent and highly multifaceted topic, as it directly interferes with the security and political standing of the EU. In order to cover a broad range of aspects and reach an effective solution, delegates are strongly encouraged to come prepared with research and speak up as often as possible.



I, along with my dais team, would like to welcome you to the European Union. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at eu@cydcmun.org.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Lee
EU Director
CYDCMUN 2019



Committee Introduction

The European Union is a political and economic band of 28 member states, including many influential nations such as the United Kingdom and France. It was created in 1993 under the Maastricht Treaty after a movement for peace and international cohesion that took place following the Second World War. The core task of the European Union is to unify the economic, social and security policies of its member states. It operates through five main actors, each with its own specialization: The European Parliament, Council of the Union, European Commission, Court of Justice, and the Court of Auditors. The Union has developed to become one of the largest and most influential powers in the world. With this power, the European Union promotes its goals which include the protection of human rights, promotion of development, and the enhancement of cohesion among nations.

All member states of the European Union work under agreements, or treaties, that guarantee certain rights and freedoms to each nation. All laws made by the European Union are restricted to the powers granted by each treaty. Although EU laws are limited to the guarantees of the treaties and the EU Charter of Human Rights, they cover a broad range of areas from agriculture, the environment, and foreign policy.

Another restriction that the EU has implemented is the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which acknowledges human rights such as free speech, privacy, and gender equality. The mandatory requirement for all EU laws to comply with this charter has often a point of controversy, as it can, and has been used to override national laws. Certain laws are more challenging to pass than others. For example, alterations to tax rates require a consensus vote from every nation, effectively giving each nation full veto power.

The powers of the EU extend beyond internal law-making, into enforcement and foreign affairs. The European Commission is able to take any member state into court in case of an EU law violation. If the nation breaches the court rulings, the Commission reserves the right to impose a fine. Internationally, the EU plays a powerful role. It engages in trade negotiation and imposes sanctions against nations that violate human rights or international law.



The European Union has been and continues to be largely cooperative with the United Nations. It promotes multilateralism across all policy regions, but mainly in conflict prevention and the protection of human rights. It provides nearly 30% of the UN's regular budget and 31% of the peacekeeping budget.



Topic Introduction

In 2017 alone, there were 205 attempted or completed terrorist attacks in the European Union, a significant rise from the 142 of 2016. A very large portion of these attacks took place in the United Kingdom (107 incidents) and France (54 incidents). Terrorist attacks caused a total of 68 deaths and 844 injured in Europe, nearly all of them stemming from jihadist atrocities. Attempting to establish an Islamic Caliphate and extend their reach and power, many jihadist groups aim to rule Islamic dominated nations. The threat of terrorism definitely remains a top priority issue for the European Union and is a clear threat to national security.

Europe has long stood as the target of terrorist attacks, many of which stem from external sources because of its geographic location in relation to the Middle East. It is simply easier for jihadis fleeing Iraq or Syria to reach Europe than to arrive at another western-liberal democracy such as the United States. Furthermore, the Schengen Agreement allows EU citizens to move freely within Europe (Excluding the UK that does not participate), allowing easier exit/entry between nations.

From mass shootings to intentional car crashes and bombings, terrorism comes in many different forms. While some attacks are carefully planned, large scale atrocities committed by organized-crime organizations such as Al-Qaeda, the recent, increasingly mainstream trend of attacks differ in nature; they are much simpler and often conducted instinctually. These attacks are more challenging to predict and prevent due to the lack of complexity. Another issue that follows the same trend is the financing of these attacks; whereas the planned, mass attacks of the past such as the 9/11 twin tower crash require many resources to conduct, the new simpler forms of terrorism are often financed through personal means.

While many attacks come from outside of Europe, many originate from inside. The spread of extremist propaganda cause concern for detached but inspired attacks, which are more difficult to regulate. Furthermore, online recruiting through social media presents the need for discussion on online censorship.



The damage of terrorism can be long-lasting. Beyond the initial casualties, attacks cause heavy damage to public works and personal property, some of which cost several hundred million dollars to repair. Furthermore, attacks negatively stigmatized the safety of the nation, affecting reputation-reliant industries such as tourism. For example, the aftermath of the Paris Attacks in 2015 included the loss of an estimated 1.5 million tourists as compared to the previous year.

Timeline

November 5, 1605 - Catholic rebels, led by Robert Catesby, fail to initiate the Gunpowder Plot. The plan is an attempt to assassinate King James I - the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

June 23, 1985 - Sikh militant group Barr Khalsa hijacks Air India Flight 812 and activates a bomb within the plane; crashing into the Atlantic Ocean and killing all passengers and crew.

April 24, 1993 - The Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) detonates a truck bomb on Bishopsgate, London, thus killing a journalist, injuring 44 civilians, and destroying \$2 Billion USD in property and infrastructure.

October 1, 1998 - Interpol and the EU create Europol, the official EU law enforcement agency against organized crime and terrorism.

September 11, 2001 - Al-Qaeda militants hijack 4 planes to carry out suicide missions against the United States; crashing into the Pentagon, the World Trade Center and in rural Pennsylvania. America leads a coalition in “the war against terror”.

2003 - Tony Blair’s Labour Government develops CONTEST, the UK’s strategy against domestic terrorism.

January 16, 2015 - Belgium initiates Operation Vigilant Guardian (OVG), a Belgian military investigation on potential leads to terrorism. This takes place after the attacks in Paris about a week prior to this initiation.



January 23, 2006 - The French Government signs the “Law on the fight against terrorism”, (Also abbreviated as the LAT); setting more powers for law enforcement concerning internet surveillance.

January 7, 2015 - Two affiliated members of Al-Qaeda storms into the Parisian offices of Charlie Hebdo, a French weekly newspaper, kills 12 people and injures 11 others.

April 24, 2015 - German Chancellor Angela Merkel & EU Commission President Jean Claude-Juncker proposes a quota-based system of distributing refugees.

May 2015 - German officials charges Neo-Nazi group the Oldschool Society for plotting an attack on a Saxon refugee shelter.

September 22, 2015 - EU interior ministers approve a proposal to relocate 120,000 refugees from Italy, Hungary, and Greece to other EU nations (except for the UK, Ireland, and Denmark)

November 13, 2015 - ISIL-affiliated members attacked several locations in Paris, marking the deadliest terrorist attack in France.

November 20, 2015 - In response to the attacks in Paris, EU interior ministers implement security screening for travellers arriving and leaving the EU Schengen Zone.

July 24, 2016 - A suicide mission in Ansbach, Germany injures 15 people; committed by Syrian refugee who pledged allegiance to ISIL.

September 2016 - Pressure and resistance from the Visegrád Four (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia) force the EU Commission to abandon the refugee quota system proposals.



Historical Analysis

The word terrorism, according to John Philip Jenkins of Britannica Encyclopedia, is defined as “the systematic use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population and thereby to bring about a particular political objective”. The term has never been internationally defined by either the European Union or the United Nations. Despite the lack of definitive meaning, numerous frameworks and legislation approved by the EU Parliament deems certain actions to be ‘terrorist actions’. This includes aircraft hijacking, terrorism financing, and nuclear terrorization.

Religiously-Motivated Terrorism

Different groups of every religion have long been heavily debating how the human race should live. A vast majority tend to keep themselves in moderation, while a small number sects push for a more fanatical society. These small variations sometimes serve as the basis of extremist actions. An early example traces back to England in the 17th century, where Catholics were unjustly persecuted by Protestant leaders and monarchs. Laws such as the Test Acts prevented non-Protestants from performing civil duties, and any that expressed dissent for these laws were harshly punished through hefty fines, imprisonment, or even execution. These extreme policies led to a fiercely violent division between Protestants and Catholics, causing Robert Catesby and his group of English Catholics to plan the Gunpowder Plot - an attempt to assassinate King James I (Supreme Governor of the Church of England). They planned to detonate barrels of gunpowder during the State Opening of Parliament, killing the king, the House of Lords chamber, and other attending guests. The attempt was foiled due to an anonymous letter that revealed internal information, causing the immediate search and prosecution of all those involved.

Although Europe has since strayed away from violence between Christian groups, another type of religious terrorism has surfaced: Islamic terrorism. This sort of extremism can be seen through the rise of Al-Qaeda and ISIL who call for atrocities against the West and its “infidels”, those that do not take part in their beliefs.



The first significant act of Islamic terrorism in 21st century Europe were the 2004 Madrid train bombings. On March 11, 2004, an Al-Qaeda subdivision coordinated bombings that targeted the Madrid train system, killing 193 people and injuring 2050 others. 11 years after the events in Madrid, France faces a rise of terrorism and the subsequent series of horrendous tragedies. From 2015 to 2018, 23 major terrorist attacks have been completed, 10 of which are connected to ISIS. This series of incidents include the mass shooting at the Parisian offices of Charlie Hebdo (January 7-9, 2015) and the truck attack in Nice during Bastille Day celebrations (July 14, 2016). The deadliest attack in French history was during this period, known as the November 2015 Paris attacks - where nine ISIS members prepared an array of offences against six targets during the night. The following resulted in 130 deaths and 413 injured victims. Incidents of Islamic terror would increase during the 21st century, devastating European cities such as Amsterdam, Barcelona, London, and Copenhagen.

Politically-Charged Attacks

Acts of terror are also committed to further a political cause or to threaten the governmental status quo, many by marginalized or opposing groups. The assassination of Duke Franz Ferdinand was the result of Bosnian resentment against the Austro-Hungarian Empire in search of independence. In post-war Britain, 'The Troubles' (late 1960s - 1998) was an era of warfare between the British military (Catholics) and paramilitary forces (Irish nationalists) who desired a unified Ireland. The bloody conflict of this period resulted in 3,489 deaths.

Across both sides of the political spectrum, terrorism and organized crime are used as a form of protest against the government. During the Cold War, extreme left, Communist organizations such as the Red Brigades (Italy) began kidnapping and murdering operations on public figures and government officials, including the kidnap and murder of Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro. On the other side of the spectrum, fascist and neo-nazi terrorist groups such as the PNFE (France-based) retaliated against pro-immigrant policies through shootings in minority-prone areas.

Threat-Detection Failures



Even though the detection of terrorist threats have improved with the development of technology, some go unnoticed. These blunders are often the result of internal problems of each agency, such as insufficient resources and poor quality of response to evidence or reports. It can also be caused by the lack of national, or international cooperation between agencies. For example, in the UK, Home Secretary Amber Rudd was under fire during Minister's Questions about MI5, the British agency for counterintelligence and security. She was questioned about their failure to detect four terrorist plots, one of which was the Ariana Grande concert in Manchester (May 22, 2017). A report by the counterterrorism department of the National Crime Agency (NCA) and MI5 reveals the possibility of mishandling or miscalculation of internal intelligence.

Current Situation

Terrorism has long plagued Europe and still remains as one of the most prominent issues debated today. The EU's location in relation to the Middle East makes it a prime target for attacks, as it is the most easily accessible group of western liberal democracies. Furthermore, the Schengen Agreement established an open border, allowing free flow of individuals in most countries.

The motivation of extremists can be categorized into two areas: political dissent and extremist religious beliefs. The most prominent of religious attacks in the EU have been from Jihadist terrorists, extremists looking to kill "infidels", those that do not actively support, or disagree with their religious beliefs. Jihadist attacks such as the organized, mass bombings of Al-Qaeda have caused several hundred millions of dollars in damage to public and private property, and deliberate car crashes conducted by the Islamic State (IS) has left hundreds injured or killed. A larger portion of attacks are committed with political motivations; the 2018 report from Europol reveals that 67% of all attacks were committed by separatists, individuals that believe that a certain demographic must be separated on the basis of religion, ethnicity, or gender. Furthermore, many attacks have been linked with the far-left and the far-right, from criminal organizations such as the New Irish Republican Army in the United Kingdom.



There has recently been a shift in the trend of terrorism; whereas past operations were mostly planned, large scale atrocities, the newly emerging attacks seem to have taken a much simpler turn. The majority of terrorist attacks in the EU is made with little to no skill with simple methods, as demonstrated in the lack of cyber attacks. Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, a senior Islamic State (IS) strategist expresses his hatred for Europeans, calling on Muslims to kill Europeans by any and all means available: “Smash his head with a rock, or slaughter him with a knife, or run him over with your car.”

Illicit Firearms

With 30% of all attacks being committed with explosives and 41% with firearms, it is clear that access to weapons is a large contributing factor to the destruction of terrorism. While Europol states that the European firearms market is moderate in size, smaller than that of many other parts of the world, the amount of criminal ownership is at a rise.

The illicit firearms trade is extremely difficult to track, due to its hidden nature. A recent study on combating illicit firearms in the EU exemplifies the lack of credible data, vaguely estimating the number of unregistered firearms in Europe to be from 81,000 to 67 million. There is a multitude of reasons behind the lack of coherent data. The information is entirely based off of instances of firearm seizures and regulation breaches, failing to represent the entire market. The collected data is entirely dependent on the focus of anti-weapon campaigns, resulting in disproportionately large data in areas of stricter enforcement. In addition, the context of each seizure is often poorly documented, if not at all due to the lack of expertise in firearms within the police. There is no standardized system for the collection and reporting of firearms, such as in Romania where there is no established structure for registering and processing arms. Even after collection, the data is not examined or analyzed for a comprehensive result.

Illicit arms stem from a number of different paths. The predominant majority of firearms were formerly legal, then traded into the illicit market. Past conflicts in the Western Balkans and the current unrest in Ukraine are consistent sources of weapons. Collector's items that have been previously deemed unusable are frequently restored for practical use, imported through the exploitation of legal loopholes. Nations with looser regulation



on deactivated collector's firearms is a prime route for transportation. Weapon parts are smuggled in small quantities, sometimes as components, later to be reassembled and 'reactivated'. A larger source of arms is from theft. Some robberies do not necessarily target firearms but include them as part of the looting, later to be either used personally or sold on the black market. Other are more organized, and target gun stores or government stockpiles in search of a large quantity or a specific type of firearm. In some cases, fake robberies are conducted to embezzle arms without direct involvement.

Although comprising only a small portion of the illicit arms trade, manufactured firearms still make an impact. Some arms are produced by underground manufacturers to meet domestic needs, such as the 'Agram' series, whereas others are manufactured for personal use. Gun components are ordered online from external sources (often shipped in large boxes of electronic parts to avoid detection) such as Italy and the United States, then assembled with no need of much expertise. EU officials also recognize the threat of 3D printed guns, which although have yet to be used in an act of terrorism, can potentially be used in the future for one. 3D printing is immensely accessible and allows creators to easily share designs. Products are very lightweight and challenging to spot in metal detectors due to their only component being the firing pin. There have been documented cases of 3D-printed firearms successfully firing up to 14 rounds, more than enough to cause multiple casualties.

Confiscated arms from the 'Ant Trade' of illicit firearms

When it comes to the black market, it must be noted that there is not one, but multiple. These businesses widely differ by nation, some offering more luxury products than another. For example, strict regulations in the United Kingdom force criminals to take from whatever limited options are available such as restored collectors arms, whereas Italian gangs have access to higher-quality products such as military-grade automatic rifles. Despite such differences in sales by region, the system of markets stays largely consistent throughout Europe. Most major traffic of arms come from previously founded criminal connections, many established in prisons. These exchanges operate in closed groups between specific parties and are unavailable to those outside of this ring.



The Financing of Terrorism

With the emerging trend of simpler terrorist attacks, there is little to no need for a meticulous funding system. Most recent operations did not require a large number of resources and were funded through the personal financial means of each individual. In contrast, however, larger forms of terrorism have a broader range of more detailed methods of funding. An investigation on a large group of Lebanese citizen revealed money-laundering operations with links to organized crime groups. Some of the profits were later found to be used in the preparation of terrorist attacks. Another investigation revealed Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs), extremists outside of Europe, who had been garnering financial support from their European families. Kidnapping remains a prominent method of financing jihadist terrorism. The possibility of a high ransom payment makes hostages a valuable commodity.

Terrorist Propaganda/Recruitment

Social Media has become one of, if not the most influential forms of media in the world today. Anyone, with the simple click of a button, can instantly share any type of content with up to billions of users online. It allows users to connect and engage in private, encrypted conversations from anywhere in the world. This major advancement works for the benefit of everyone, including terrorists.

The seemingly infinite reach of social media allows terrorist groups to reach a much farther audience than before. Previously, these groups were limited to in-person recruitments, completely reliant on personal connections. Radical clerics spread their sermons on digital tapes and tediously duplicated them one by one. Osama Bin Laden would fax his messages to media outlets in London, in hopes of reaching a larger audience. These outdated methods are now replaced with online sharing that allow radical groups to reach millions with captivating videos or messages, without the use of resources or the need for technical expertise. Perhaps best of all, extremists are now able to spread their message anonymously. Online communication has broken international borders, allowing these groups to recruit people from distant regions.



Another property of social media that the terrorists have to their advantage is that 'professional' content tends to follow a similar style. Jihadist extremists have begun to use digital editing software and basic tools to create videos of surprisingly high production value. In just 30 days, ISIS produced 1146 units of propaganda from video essays, audio statements and magazines to posters and pamphlets, all extremely well polished. Many of these ads are targeted towards what they consider the prime recruiting age (16-25), which is most active on social media. Another method terrorist groups use to gain publicity is to ride the popularity of famous figures. Propagandists comment on tweets from global politicians such as Donald Trump, where they spark a heated debate, one that brings much attention to their cause.

Not only is social media is used to spread information, but it is also used to collect data. Personal information posted online in profiles is exploited to gather intel, and encrypted instant messaging services such as Telegram is used to converse privately with insiders and potential recruits.

The EU has initially responded to the exploitation of social media by trying to refute and discredit the statements made by terrorists in attempts dubbed as 'Counter-Messaging'. After seeing limited success, the EU altered their approach, now working to sever criminal access to social media and damage the reputation of terrorist organizations. For example, a recently passed EU law requires that terrorist propaganda is identified and removed within one hour from all media firms, and failure to comply would result in a hefty fine of 4% of the company's annual revenue. This, however, has had the opposite result: ISIS's ability to directly confront their enemy simply added credibility to their cause.

International Involvement

In recent years, terrorist attacks have been on the rise in Europe. According to EUROPOL, the European Law Enforcement Agency, there were 211 completed, failed, or prevented terrorist attacks in 2015. As a result, Europe faced 151 fatalities and over 360 injured.

The EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy



In response to terrorist threats, the European Council adopted the EU counter-terrorism strategy to improve European security and combat terrorism on a global scale. The strategy operates under four main pillars: Prevent, Protect, Pursue, and Respond. 'Prevent' entails the addressing of root causes behind radicalization and terrorist recruitment. 'Protect' is the focus of shielding citizens and infrastructure from attacks as they occur, and reducing overall vulnerability to attacks. 'Pursue' calls for the act of working towards rendering the terrorists incapable of carrying out attacks, hindering their capacity to plan and organize. Finally, 'Respond' denotes the preparation, management and minimizing of the consequences of a terrorist attack. The strategy cannot be carried out without international assistance from countries or international institutions such as the European Parliament or the United Nations.

Joint International Effort

Recognizing the external source of terrorism and cooperating with international partners is vital for the counter-terrorism strategy to operate globally; the EU works with countries in the Western Balkans, North America, Middle East, Asia and Africa, as well as the United Nations Security Council and the Council of Europe. Most notably, cooperation agreements in recent years have led Europol and Eurojust to work closely with the US to combat terrorism. Joint efforts include border control, legal assistance and extradition. For example, Article 67 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) mandates a guideline on actions needed to prevent and fight crime.

Europol TE-SAT Reports

When combating terrorism, the use of well-founded information is crucial to ensuring that each action taken by the EU is effective. Created in 2007, the EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) is an annual assessment of the state of European terrorism. It provides rests. Furthermore, it identifies emerging or ongoing trends and potential future developments. The data and results are collected and verified by EU member states and by Europol's partners, to be then used by the police and policymakers to effectively address terrorist threats.



Seeking Resolution

Anti-Terrorist Media Campaigns

Just as how the terrorists spread their messages through online media campaigns, the EU can do the same with Anti-terrorist material. The main goal of this media campaign would be to de-incentivize admission to/cooperation with terrorist organizations. European governments may opt to include campaign messages in posters at public locations, TV advertisements, and/or social media platforms.

The main benefit of this campaign would be that it is extremely cheap to operate and therefore can be easily implemented in all member states. Furthermore, it directly targets the most vulnerable audience through an extremely widespread medium, guaranteeing that the campaign is able to reach a diverse set of people. On the other hand, some negatives of an initiative of this nature include its failure to create a legally binding mandate, and the risk of the campaign being interpreted as a direct response to the terrorists, boosting the credibility of these criminal organizations.

International Policy Cooperation

With many of the deadliest attacks stemming from external sources, the need for international cooperation is increasingly clear. More specifically, the European Union needs better policy collaboration with external nations such as Saudi Arabia. These policy changes may include stricter border regulation and increased transparency of data. While establishing a successful partnership can aid in providing the necessary intel to respond to threats sooner, it is difficult to achieve- other nations will not necessarily be welcoming to the idea of a policy change that requires them to release internal information.

However, there is no single policy change that helps combat terrorism. Increasing regulations on firearms may also be another form of policy change that can reduce attacks, as it would eliminate many important trading routes.



Standardized Arms Registration

As outlined previously, one of the main reasons why the EU has limited data on illicit arms is because of the lack of a standardized registration system. Many police lack the technical expertise to properly document the full context of each crime. To mitigate this issue, the European Union may opt to establish a universal procedure to be placed in police stations and national agencies with training and inter-agency networks.

A clearly defined standard for illicit arms registration would provide the European Union with more data from which they can make accurate predictions. Proper analysis of such data can provide a strong basis for all anti-terrorist operations, improving the chances of intercepting an attack before it is completed. On the other hand, such systems take a fairly long time to implement and will take even more time to collect enough data for a clear prediction. This solution, therefore, cannot solve the issue of terrorism by itself and requires an additional short-term strategy.

Mass Surveillance

Methods that include tapping into phone calls, data logs and online texts have proven to aid in deterring terrorist attacks. Collecting and scanning large masses of private data for incriminating information will provide the EU with critical intel needed to predict terrorist plans and respond effectively. This is especially true when looking at the new trend of terrorism that is much less meticulously planned and leaves a larger digital footprint. Furthermore, this can help track down online recruitment and transmission of intel, both of which happen on private messaging services such as Telegram.

However, in order to find truly helpful data, the government would have to infringe on the right to privacy. As a topic that is already the talking point of many heated debates, tightening surveillance on the public is sure to lead to extreme controversy.

Tightening Border Security

A large number of illicit arms are part of the 'Ant Trade', which is the smuggling of arms in small quantities, often just parts of a firearm, to be



assembled later. Many criminal shipments are missed by security, due to the Schengen agreement that abolishes national borders within the Schengen area. This allows criminals to purchase arms from nations with looser firearm regulations, then smuggle them in.

This problem can be addressed through improved security at international borders, where inspections can take place at varying levels of intensity. The EU may opt to simply keep track of each vehicle that crosses the border through the use of surveillance technology, or implement a full border system as seen in non-Schengen nations. While a successful implementation of this strategy may bring far better regulation on the illicit arms trade, abolishing a long-established treaty will likely bring detrimental harms to those reliant on it.



Bloc Positions

Scandinavia (Denmark, Norway, Sweden)

At first glance, Scandinavian nations would be an unusual haven for terrorism due to its minuscule populations compared to the rest of Europe. However, this part of Europe has significant activity in terms of radicalization. Jihadists travel to the Middle East to fight alongside ISIS and Al-Qaeda, with which only less than half coming back home. To prevent radicals from fighting in the Middle East, Scandinavian nations propose legislation to tighten travel within the EU and non-EU areas. Proposals such as biometric passport controls within the Schengen free-movement area. These border checks would be precautions to detect potential threats of terrorists. However, it would also challenge the very basis of the free-movement concept, in which EU citizens have the right to move around the EU without hassle. These countries would propose stricter background checks for EU nationals who are arriving from or departing for non-EU countries and banning potential threats from entering Europe. These proposals would lessen the chances of these countries' citizens to become fighters of extremist terrorism.

The Visegrád Four (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia)

This political and cultural alliance takes an aggressive stance in combating terrorism and the factors contributing to terrorism. As the potential threat of crime and abuse during the current migration crisis grows, the Visegrád Four has been vehemently against the integration and acceptance of refugees and immigrants coming into the continent. Their strong resistance resulted in gridlock within the EU concerning refugee relocation and quotas.

The Visegrád Four has shown support for an increase in police funding through its own budget expansion of counterterrorism units. The advent of “fake news”, hoaxes, and foreign propaganda could hinder the actual and horrendous attacks on their countries. Proposing an extensive counter-propaganda and monitoring systems would tread on the media to provide factual evidence and to protect their view on the truth about the threats of terrorism



Ireland & The UK (Issue of Northern Ireland)

After the signing of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, both the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland vow to never revert back to the days of the Troubles. It is in the best interest to keep both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in a special and intact relationship for the prevention of renewed violence in the island. However, after the British people's decision to leave the European Union, the future of this special relationship is uncertain. The British Exit (also known as Brexit) was possible because the British people wanted to "take back control of [their] borders and laws." However, reverting back to a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland cannot be a possible option, according to both nation's governments. This would bring back historical, religious and political divisions that society thought was erased. What the two countries would approve of is a comprehensive agreement that honours both the referendum and the Good Friday Agreement. The situation in the Island of Ireland can be a lesson for countries about the importance of intergovernmental and peaceful cooperation concerning terrorism.

Germany & France

Despite the two countries being constant targets of terrorism, both have pledged to accept refugees into Europe. In 2017 alone, Germany and France garnered a combined number of more than 286,000 registered asylum seekers. In these actions, the possibility of increasing terrorism is more likely as terrorism committed by refugees occur more frequent. Nations have to understand the consequences and kickbacks when accepting these refugees during spikes of terrorist activities.

In the deterrence of terrorism, Germany and France have significantly broadened and enlarged the powers of the police in the field of online and tradition mass surveillance. Under France's "Loi relative à la lutte contre le terrorisme" (abbreviated as the LCT), the police can access an individual's computer files and cell phone message without a warrant. In 2009, a German anti-terrorism law expands CCTV surveillance in public areas and events. As attacks against their countries become less uncommon, both countries do all in their legal capacity to quickly detect any plots or offences.



Guiding Questions

1. What is the definition of terrorism?
2. What are some past programs implemented by the EU? What were their results?
3. What is my nation's policy on censorship?
4. Is there a consistent pattern throughout recent terrorist attacks?
5. Are my solutions affordable to the nations that need it most?
6. What are the political ramifications of this topic?
7. Which EU countries are the most vulnerable to terrorist attacks?

Further Reading

Digital Counterterrorism: Fighting Jihadists Online - Bipartisan Policy
<https://bipartisanpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BPC-National-Security-Digital-Counterterrorism.pdf>

European Commission study on combating illicit firearms trafficking in the EU

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/e-library/documents/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/general/docs/dg_home_-_illicit_firearms_trafficking_final_en.pdf

Firearms Acquisition by Terrorists in Europe

https://www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu/sites/vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu/files/files/reports/syntheserapport_saft.pdf

European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2018 (TESAT 2018)

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/main-reports/european-union-terrorism-situation-and-trend-report-2018-tesat-2018>

Military grade firearms increasingly available to terrorists in Europe - report

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/18/arms-race-criminal-gangs-helping-terrorists-get-weapons-report-warns>



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