



The European Union (EU)

EU'S SECURITY POLICIES AND EFFORTS TO COMBAT TERRORISM AND CYBER THREATS

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Description of the Committee

The European Union (EU) is an international organization consisting of 27 countries geographically located in Europe. Their objectives are to closely collaborate in various areas such as government, diplomacy and trade.

The origin of the E.U. traces all the way back to the aftermath of WWII, when the leaders of some European countries sought to avoid further conflicts within the region. The European Coal and Steel Community (est. 1951), was the first step in integrating fundamental industrial sectors in six founding members: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany. Afterwards, in 1957, the European Economic Community was established by the Treaty of Rome, promoting economic integration within the European countries.

In 1992, the Maastricht treaty birthed the EU, and introduced the concept of European citizenship as well as the Euro currency. Many other countries began to join the EU after the end of the Cold War, but it reached its final membership expansion in 2007 with a total 27 nations. The EU has played a major role in preventing potential conflicts, by planning resolutions. An example of how the EU de-escalated a conflict in the region would be the reunification of Germany, after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The Treaty of Lisbon is a set of shared goals and values that have a common objective of making people have good lives while maintaining the peace in the region. It is the baseline of the European Union, which all member countries must follow in order to maintain their status within



the organization. If the criterias aren't met, a country could face expulsion; however, this has yet to be an issue. With the cooperation of all of the member states, the EU has been a cohesively functional and effective organization for decades, whilst fulfilling all of its goals for maintaining peace within the region.

Introduction to the Topic

The European Union's objective is to be a district of freedom, security and justice, without interior partitions. Europeans should feel safe that anywhere they move within the EU, their freedom and their soundness are well protected.

One of the main threats to those objectives are terrorists. Terrorism is a menacing phenomenon that does not negotiate, nor recognise borders. Every day, terrorists infiltrate EU countries and target citizens irrespective of their geographical location. Terrorism is defined as a “deliberate use of violence and intimidation to create fear in the population in hopes of achieving a political objective” (,). In order to prevent this, the EU established the counter-terrorism agenda in 2020, which defines objectives and creates committees with the sole purpose of stopping terrorism, such as the air security group (AVSEC), land transport security group (LANDSEC), and maritime security group (MARSEC). The EU's counterterrorism agenda builds on policies that were already in action, in order to make them more complete and adjusted to the technology available at the time. Some of the EU's solutions have been creating an action plan to increase readiness against CBRN threats, (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear). In order to put this action plan in place, their primary objective is to protect public spaces. The nature of public spaces make them very easy and vulnerable for terrorist attacks. Some are run by the government while others are run by private organizations, which are easier to gain control of and get terrorized. They've also developed strategies to avoid terrorism in vehicles through several organizations AIRPOL and RAILPOL. They have the Anti-Semmetism strategy to avoid terrorism in places of warship, and to add further support to the matter, the EU has also reduced access to explosives and increased detectors' capacity to do their job.

Cybersecurity is one of the Commission's most valuable priorities and a pillar for a digital and inter-connected Europe. An increase of cyber threats and attacks during the COVID-19 pandemic have proved how crucial it is to protect hospitals, research centers, and other industrialized infrastructures. Cybersecurity is needed to future-proof the EU's economy, society, and digital community.

Cyberthreats have recently also become a huge issue and threat to the safety and security of Europe. The existence of terrorist content on the internet creates a huge risk to the public. Terrorists misuse the worldwide web to spread their messages with the intent of intimidating, radicalizing, recruiting, and facilitating terrorist attacks. In an effort to eliminate this threat, the



European Commission has put into action a series of voluntary and legislative regulations and initiatives to help diminish the terrorist threats. One of them being the regulation to address the dissemination of terrorist content online. The Regulation to address the dissemination of terrorist content online has been in action since 7 June 2022. This regulation states that terrorist content is to be taken down within an hour or less of it being identified online. This applies for online platforms that offer services within the EU, in order to be sure of the safety and security of EU citizens. Also, the Regulation establishes strong safeguards to assure that freedom of expression and information are entirely protected. The Regulation adds to the Commission Communication established in September 2017 about tackling illicit content online.

Background Information on the Topic:

The fight in opposition to terrorism and cyberthreats has been one of the first concerns of the European program on safety for a long time. The European Union adopted its first project against terrorism after 9/11. In 2002, the European Union adopted an important piece of legislation: the Framework Decision on Combating Terrorism, supplying a familiar definition of terrorist offense over the EU. The Framework Decision on Combating Terrorism demands EU countries to line up their rules and initiate penalties as to terrorism attacks. The Madrid and London terrorist attacks in 2004 and 2005 obliged the EU to adopt a strategy to highlight the value of helping non-EU countries and international institutions.

Cyber threats have been happening for a long time now and affect many people since they lose money, financial and medical information, etc. The European Union has adopted rules all over the years to have security and stop cyber threats. The Commission initiated a cybersecurity package to improve EU cyber-resilience and defense. The Commission granted a determined reform proposal to guarantee the ENISA can also achieve operational tasks.

Current Situation of the Topic

The EU attempts to provide security and peace, in close collaboration with the Member States, uniting conflict prevention, mediation and conflict-resolution in an accomplished way. They work together to defend their citizens and to make the security stronger. They need to look after their security and oversee creating it. The European Alliance aims to be a place of independence, security, and justice, without inner borders. Those in Europe should have



confidence that wherever they move in the EU, their independence and stability will be well protected.

On 24 July 2020, the European Commission embraced an entirely new EU Security Alliance Tactic from 2020 to 2025. One of the 4 priorities of the Security Alliance Tactic is “Protecting Europe from terrorism and organized crime. The Tactic announces the acquisition of a Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the EU, along with extended efforts to prevent and counter radicalization.

A new plan of action for EUs security was introduced by the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The objective of the plan is to build resistance to cyber threats and ensure that citizens and companies benefit from reliable digital technologies.

INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON THE TOPIC

The UN has made several tries to prevent cyber threats. The Cybersecurity and New Technologies programme is an organization by the UN that aims to prevent cyber threats. In 2022, the UN launched the CT TECH initiative; this organization was launched by the European Union and implemented under the global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies. It aims to help law enforcement, counter emerging technologies, and fight terrorism. UNOCT, in the past, has tried to prevent violent extremism by gathering information on social media.

Many countries have individually created laws and regulations to prevent cyberterrorism and specific mechanisms to identify potential cyber threats. Many countries have collaborated internationally to track the problems and help prevent them. Investing in artificial intelligence is a solution that countries are applying.

Recommendations for creating a resolution

To create a resolution, we recommend delegates to consider the following:



- The UN cannot make laws.
- Take into consideration how your solutions may fail in the future.
- Not only think about the short-term solution but also consider the long-term.
- Consider past attempts to eradicate this problem.
- Avoid the use of personal pronouns.
- Think about how your country is going to satisfy everyone.
- Think about how many other countries help you.
- Think about how your solutions can be a problem for other countries.
- Consider how people are going to react.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER (to create a Resolution)

- How can I convince people?
- How can I make them hear me?
- How can I create a good solution?
- How can I stop this problem?
- How can I make this problem less significant?
- Why is this even an issue?
- Why is this still a problem?



- Why are people not fixing this problem?
- When did this start?
- Who can solve this problem?
- What prompted this problem?

Terms and Concepts

Cyberthreats: A malicious threat to hack a computer. (*Oxford languages and google - english 2023*)

Policy: A course or principle of action adopted or proposed by a government, party, business, or individual. (*Oxford languages and google - english 2023*)

Terrorism: The unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims. (*Oxford languages and google - english 2023*)

Security: The state of being free from danger or threat. (*Oxford languages and google - english 2023*)

Treaty: a formally concluded and ratified agreement between countries. (*Oxford languages and google - english 2023*)

Research aid

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/counter-terrorism-and-radicalisation_e

In here we can find how the European Union makes movements against terrorism.



<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/cybersecurity-strategy#:~:text=The%20EU%20Cybersecurity%20Strategy%20aims,benefit%20from%20trustworthy%20digital%20technologies.&text=Follow%20the%20latest%20progress%20and%20learn%20more%20about%20getting%20involve>

In this source we can see how the European Union attempts to prevent cyberthreats.

https://op.europa.eu/webpub/com/eu-and-me/en/WHAT_IS_THE_EUROPEAN_UNION.html

In this source it is explained what the European Union is and what countries are part of it.

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/counter-terrorism_en.

The source explains the EU's external action on the topic.

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/cybersecurity-policies>.

The source talks about the EU's plan for a better future digitally.

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