



**OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
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“Transnational Security in the OSCE Area: Countering Terrorism”

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Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to introduce the subject of countering terrorism in the OSCE area to the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Today I will speak about (i) this year plans to address terrorism, (ii) Ministerial Council documents on CT, adopted in Belgrade, (iii) the programmatic activities in countering terrorism, and, (iv) conclude with some thoughts on how the Parliamentary Assembly can support this work.

Regrettably, terrorism continues to challenge security in the OSCE region and OSCE participating States are key actors in countering this scourge. This unprecedented global threat compels all stakeholders to look beyond borders and co-operate fully in preventing and countering terrorism.

The OSCE is the world’s largest regional organization, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. The Organization has a strong mandate to work on preventing and countering terrorism and radicalization, while upholding the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. To do this an active role of all participating States, Partners for Co-operation, OSCE field operations and institutions, of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is required, along with OSCE partners among international and regional organizations, and with civil society.

This year counter-terrorism remains high on the OSCE’s agenda. The **OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference** to be held in Berlin from 31 May to 1 June 2016 will focus on young people and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to

terrorism, including the phenomenon of “Foreign Terrorist Fighters” (FTF). States participating in the conference will offer their perspectives for the reintegration of FTFs into society, as well as on preventing terrorist radicalization and promoting de-radicalization of young women.

Last December in Belgrade, participating States united in adopting MC Declaration 4/15 on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT), and MC Declaration 3/15 on Reinforcing OSCE Efforts to Counter Terrorism in the Wake of Recent Terrorist Attacks. Both documents commit participating States to enhance international co-operation and to work together, to prevent and counter terrorism.

How can the OSCE be instrumental in this regard? The OSCE provides a unique platform for dialogue among counter-terrorism policy experts and practitioners, which is essential to foster co-operation.

The OSCE holds Organization-wide, regional, sub-regional and national activities to promote good practices and networking, to raise awareness and to build capacity among governments, civil society and businesses.

Allow me to highlight just a few examples:

To **counter Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism** (VERLT), the OSCE Secretary General and 2015 Serbian Chairmanship launched a communication campaign “OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism”. Within six months, the campaign reached some 4 million people – and I encourage you to support and join our communication campaign.

In September last year, a good practices document on women and countering violent extremism developed by the TNT Department was adopted by the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum and acknowledged by the UN Security Council Resolution 2242 (2015). We are now planning new activities to assist participating States in taking a gender perspective in their efforts to counter VERLT.

Looking ahead, we are committed to a multi-year initiative “Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism” – LIVE, with a focus on empowering civil society resilience and responses to VERLT. As a first step, we will develop training courses to build the capacity of youth leaders, women leaders, as well as religious and traditional leaders to speak up, mobilize and undertake activities against VERLT.

“...States should prepare for a further increase in the number of FTF travelling to other states on the instruction of ISIL” stresses the UN SG in his report S/2016/92 published on 29 January. Therefore our **Travel Document Security** programme is of paramount importance, as it sets the framework to support participating States in preventing the movement of foreign terrorist fighters.

Such a support can be separated across three main pillars:

- (i) preventing the misuse of travel documents for FTF travel by upgrading ePassports and preparing States to join the ICAO Public Key Directory;*
- (ii) improving screening measures at the borders, in particular in the detection of forged documents;*
- (iii) increasing the sharing of information through expanding the use of INTERPOL databases and enhancing the use of Advanced Passenger Information (API), In that regard we will strive to expand the use of Advanced Passenger Information (API) among states in the OSCE region.*

Drawing on the OSCE’s tools and in response to the assault on the Charlie Hebdo magazine, jointly with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) we organized a workshop on “Media Freedom and Responsibilities in the Context of Counter-Terrorism Policies” in Bucharest last October. We intend to follow up with a set of general media guidelines, standards, best practices and recommendations in reporting on counter-terrorism policies and terrorism related incidents.

To promote public-private partnership, a Guidebook on Good Practices in the **Protection of Non-nuclear Critical Energy Infrastructure**, was published. Based on this publication pertinent trainings have been organized. *The latest one took place in Madrid, Spain, in mid-February.*

Suppressing terrorism financing is a cross-dimensional programme which links the politico-military and economic dimensions. Prevention of abuse of non-profit organizations for the purposes of terrorist financing is a focus area of our activities.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s Role in Countering Terrorism

To conclude my remarks, let me outline that the OSCE PA has an important role to play to strengthen the overall capacity of our Organization and its participating States to respond to terrorist threats and challenges.

As political leaders, **you play a key** role in advocating national consensus against terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, in providing solidarity with and support to victims of terrorism.

As legislators, **you have** a particularly crucial role in promoting **international legal framework against terrorism**. The OSCE participating States' commitment to become parties to the universal anti-terrorist conventions and protocols is central to anchoring counter-terrorism. So far only eight participating States are parties to all these instruments (Austria, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Switzerland).

Strengthening national anti-terrorist legislation might be another area of your activities and **you may** wish to explore opportunities for its unification across the OSCE region as well. We, in the executive structures, will follow with great interest your discussion of pertinent initiatives, as put forward by the Special Representative on CT of the OSCE PA President.

Mr. Chairperson,

As the terrorist threat evolves in multifaceted ways, it is essential that participating States of our Organization implement obligations under universal anti-terrorist conventions and UN resolutions, OSCE commitments, to prevent terrorist financing, to stop movement of Foreign Terrorist Fighters, to promote public/private partnerships, to engage and empower youth, as well as to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism while fully respecting human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

I look forward to working closely with all of you, and I thank you for providing me this opportunity to introduce you today the subject of countering terrorism in the OSCE area.

Thank you for your attention.