EU Counter-terrorism strategy

The attack in Paris on the satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* in January 2015, and the ensuing wave of violence in which 17 people were killed, together with subsequent events in Belgium and Denmark, has prompted a debate in the European Union on strengthening its counter-terrorism strategy. On 12 February, EU heads of state and government discussed new initiatives that would aim, among other goals, at preventing Europeans from going to fight alongside jihadist militants in Syria and Iraq, and their returning to carry out attacks in Europe. At their informal meeting, the EU leaders called for stricter checks on people entering the Schengen area, better information-sharing and the rapid adoption of the Passenger Name Records (PNR) system.

This note offers links to a selection of recent commentaries and analyses by major international think-tanks and research institutes which analyse the internal security threat posed by terrorism and ways to contain it.

**Commentaries by think tanks**


[Europe’s jihadi generation](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brookings-monthly/2015/02/27/europe-s-jihadi-generation/) (Javier Solana opinion piece) Brookings Institution, February 27, 2015

[Europe cracks down on terrorism](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brookings-monthly/2015/01/16/europe-cracks-down-on-terrorism/) Brookings Institution, January 16, 2015

[The threats to Europe’s democracy and stability](https://www.carnegie.eu/node/54240) Carnegie Europe, January 12, 2015


[About fear, terrorism and what is really new](https://www.clingendael.nl/en/node/3237) Clingendael, November 1, 2014

[Is a French intifada brewing?](https://www.ifri.org/publications/is-a-french-intifada-brewing) Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI), April 9, 2014
Analyses by think tanks

The EU counter-terrorism policy responses to the attacks in Paris: towards an EU security and liberty agenda Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), February 9, 2015


Strengthening government partnerships to build resilience: the challenge of foreign fighters Institute for Strategic Dialogue, January, 2015

Addressing foreign terrorist fighters phenomenon from EU perspective Clingendael, December, 2014

Returning Western foreign fighters: The case of Afghanistan, Bosnia and Somalia International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, June 20, 2014


On the front line: A guide to countering far-right extremism Institute for Strategic Dialogue, June, 2014

Confidential partnerships? The EU, its strategic partners and international terrorism FRIDE, January 2014

Related publications

Differenzierte Reaktionen von Muslimen auf die Anschläge von Paris und die Gefahr kollektiver Schuldzuweisungen Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, February 15, 2015

Using Force Against Terrorists ‘Outside Areas of Active Hostilities’—The Obama Approach and the Bin Laden Raid Revisited, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, February 5, 2015


Djihadistische Radikalisierung und staatliche Gegenstrategien Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 2015


The Arab war(s) on terror European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), June 27, 2014

Foreign fighters, the challenge of counter-narratives Institute for Strategic Dialogue, March, 2014

Economic cost of violence containment Institute for Economics and Peace, February 2014

Other relevant material

Informal meeting of the Heads of State or Government Brussels, 12 February 2015 - Statement by the members of the European Council

‘Foreign fighters’ - Member States' responses and EU action in an international context EPRS briefing, February 5, 2015

Foreign fighters and European responses EPRS keysourse, January 28, 2015

The content of this document is the sole responsibility of the author and any opinions expressed therein do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. It is addressed to the Members and staff of the EP for their parliamentary work. Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the European Parliament is given prior notice and sent a copy. © European Union, 2015.