ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Committee on Political Affairs

30.10.2013

DRAFT REPORT

on the global spread of terrorism: the role of the Internet and social media

Co-rapporteurs: Moses Y. Kollie (Liberia) and Zita Gurmai

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION
At its meeting of 16 June 2013, the Bureau of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly authorised its Committee on Political Affairs to draw up a report, pursuant to Article 2(8) of its Rules of Procedure, on the global spread of terrorism: the role of the Internet and social media.

At its meeting of 20 September 2013, the Committee on Political Affairs appointed …… and Moses Y. Kollie (Liberia) co-rapporteurs.

[The Committee on Political Affairs considered the draft report at its meetings of 23 November 2013 and ... March 2014.

At the latter meeting, it adopted the accompanying draft motion for a resolution.

The following were present for the vote: ...

The resolution was tabled for adoption on ...]
MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the global spread of terrorism: the role of the Internet and social media

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

meeting in [Addis Ababa from 25 to 27 November 2013],

– having regard to the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the ACP and the EC, in particular Article 11A thereof,


– having regard to Decisions Nos 3/04 and 7/06 of the Ministerial Council of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe on Combating the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes,


– having regard to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006,

A. having regard to the persistence of terrorist threats around the world, particularly in the ACP countries and the EU Member States;

B. whereas the spread of terrorism is intensified by the use of the Internet and social networks, which have made the structure, methods and modes of financing of terrorist networks more complex and more difficult to detect;

C. having regard to the new form of terrorism against IT services, particularly those of public bodies, known as ‘cyber terrorism’;

D. whereas the Internet and social networks such as Facebook, Linkedin, Viadeo, Twitter and Youtube are increasingly being used by terrorist organisations to recruit, finance, persuade, train and incite Internet users to commit acts of terrorism;

E. whereas the Internet constitutes an instantaneous international communication network and an unlimited area of exchange which cannot be censored; whereas the Internet is also a powerful tool for use in blackmail and bringing pressure to bear on international opinion by disseminating pictures showing executions or mistreatment of hostages;

F. whereas cyber terrorism enables terrorist groups to establish and maintain links without the physical obstacle of borders, thus reducing the need to have bases or sanctuaries in
countries; whereas this transnational character necessitates a coordinated response by States to this scourge;

G. whereas terrorists are increasingly using new information technologies to disseminate their audiovisual recordings intended to express their ideology, to spread fear among the public, to identify, recruit and radicalise potential members in order to turn them into future fighters, to collect and transfer funds, and to organise terrorist acts or incite people to commit them;

H. whereas, furthermore, terrorist organisations make ample use of the Internet and social networks to maintain contact between themselves and their operational infrastructures, which are often very far apart, to transfer know-how in the field of the manufacture of explosives and rockets and to collect donations from Islamic charities which have open or tacit sympathies for the Jihadist cause;

I. whereas the use of the Internet and social networks for terrorist purposes is promoted by the fact that democratic States hesitate to take measures, out of a concern to protect freedom of expression, hesitate to take effective measures against websites which propagate radical ideologies and preach intolerance, hatred and violence;

J. whereas a certain role must be credited to the demagogic discourses of terrorists, but a certain number of socioeconomic and political factors, such as poverty, youth unemployment, intolerance, lack of education, social injustices, conflicts and poor governance, may help to give terrorist discourses a certain plausibility and thus constitute fertile ground for radicalisation;

K. reaffirming that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that it is therefore imperative to combat it by all means compatible with the United Nations Charter and international law;

L. whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1624 (2005) calls upon States to take all measures that are necessary, appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under international law to prohibit by law incitement to commit terrorist acts and to prevent incitement to commit such acts;

M. reaffirming the commitments assumed by States under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, particularly ‘to coordinate efforts at the international and regional level to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations on the Internet’ and ‘to use the Internet as a tool for countering the spread of terrorism’;

1. Calls on the ACP States and the EU Member States to act on their obligations pursuant to UN Security Council Resolutions 1373, 1566 and 1624;

2. Calls on the ACP States and the EU Member States to cooperate fully with the Counter-Terrorism Committee set up by Resolution 1373 (2001) and the Committee set up by Resolution 1540 (2004), calling furthermore on these bodies to engage in enhanced cooperation among themselves;
3. Exhorts the ACP States and the EU Member States to maintain constant vigilance against nebulous terrorist organisations which have the faculty to reconstitute or reorganise themselves quickly, even after severe setbacks;

4. Calls on the ACP States and the EU Member States which have not yet done so to establish units to prevent and combat terrorism with several dimensions within their governments in order to improve cooperation between services and maintain liaison with the international, regional and subregional focal points;

5. Calls on the European Commission and international organisations such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), Interpol, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to provide the necessary assistance to the ACP States to step up their capacities to prevent and combat terrorism;

6. Calls on the ACP States and the EU Member States to exchange information on the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and to cooperate in devising effective means of combating that threat;

7. Calls for more vigilant surveillance of websites which incite hatred and circulate terrorist ideas, as well as information and intelligence concerning terrorist actions and activities;

8. Calls on the ACP States and the EU Member States to adopt legislation to establish effective procedures which will make it possible to close down swiftly websites which serve the interests of terrorists;

9. Calls on governments to carry out strict monitoring to prevent donations to charities and social associations from becoming sources of finance for terrorist activities;

10. Calls on all States to cooperate unreservedly in measures against terrorism, in accordance with the obligations incumbent upon them under international law;

11. Calls on the competent international, regional and subregional organisations to step up international cooperation in combating terrorism and to intensify their relations with the United Nations and particularly with the Counter-Terrorism Committee with a view to facilitating the full and prompt implementation of Resolution 1373 (2001);

12. Stresses the need to further step up programmes to combat poverty and marginalisation in order to arrest the process of growing vulnerability of certain population groups who otherwise might, out of despair, be inclined to lend a certain credence to the propaganda or preaching of extremist groups;

13. Calls on all public and private audiovisual organisations to include in their productions content intended to inform the public about the dangers associated with the propaganda of radical groups and to combat the destructive and extremist ideas which accompany it;
14. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the African Union, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the regional organisations of the ACP States.