The EU and the fight against terrorism

Following the deadly terrorist attacks in Paris in 2015 and in Brussels and Nice this year, the European Union is moving ahead with its Security Union concept to help strengthen internal security cooperation, combat terrorism and prevent youth radicalisation.

As part of anti-terrorist efforts, the European Parliament and the Council are finalising work on Directives on Combatting Terrorism and on Firearms. The European Commission is to make final proposals under the terrorist financing Action Plan, including on the criminalisation of money laundering.

This note offers links to recent commentaries and reports from major international think tanks on terrorism in Europe and the EU's response to it. More studies on the topic can be found in a previous edition of 'What think tanks are thinking'.

Crime and terror in Europe: Where the nexus is alive and well
International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, December 2016

Stopping ISIS from luring people into terrorism
German Marshall Fund, December 2016

Global terrorism index 2016
Institute for Economics and Peace, November 2016

A “Linkage-Based” approach to combating militant Islamist propaganda: A two-tiered framework for practitioners
International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, November 2016

How West Africa became fertile ground for AQIM and ISIS
Carnegie Europe, November 2016

Counterterrorism in Belgium: Key challenges and policy options
Egmont, October 2016

Reforming Transatlantic counter-terrorism
GLOBSEC Policy Institute, October 2016

Women in Daesh: Jihadist 'cheerleaders', active operatives?
European Union Institute for Security Studies, October 2016

The struggle against Islamist terrorism: Franco-German and European responses
Notre Europe, Jacques Delors Institute, October 2016

Views from around the globe: Countering violent extremism
Center for Strategic and International Studies, October 2016

Europe's new counter-terror wars
European Council on Foreign Relations, October 2016

Al-Qaeda still threatens Europe: How the U.S. can - and should - help
Heritage Foundation, October 2016
Fear not: A critical perspective on the terrorist threat in Europe  Egmont, September 2016

Quelle politique de déradicalisation face à la génération Daech  Egmont, September 2016

Foreign terrorist fighters: German Islamists in Syria and Iraq and what can be done about them  George C. Marshall, European Center for Security Studies, September 2016

An EU terrorist finance tracking system  Royal United Services Institute, September 2016

Unveiling the structure of unconventional organized crime investigating and prosecuting criminal networks within and beyond European borders  Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, September 2016


Is terrorism contagious?  Egmont, August 2016

Understanding the current wave of terrorism  Egmont, August 2016

Countering extortion racketeering: The Italian experience  Center for the Study of Democracy, July 2016

"Defeating" ISIS: The real threats and challenges  Center for Strategic and International Studies, July 2016

The Nice attack and the limits of security responses  Clingendael, July 2016

The vicious cycle of French terrorism  Brookings Institution, July 2016


Expanding the concept of terrorism: Possible interpretations after the Orlando shooting  Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, July 2016

La Sentinelle égarée ? L'armée de Terre face au terrorisme  Institut français des relations internationales, June 2016

Lessons from history for counter-terrorism strategic communications  International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, June 2016

Converts and Islamist terrorism: An introduction  International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, June 2016

A brief history of propaganda during conflict: Lessons for counter-terrorism strategic communications  International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, June 2016


The fall-out from the Brussels terrorist attacks  European Policy Centre, June 2016