

EN

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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(13.9.2021)

The Council conclusions of June<sup>1</sup> and November 2020<sup>2</sup> and those of the European Council of December 2020<sup>3</sup> have underlined the European Union's (EU) commitment to counter all sorts of extremist propaganda, and the importance of supporting partner countries in their capacity-building efforts towards, inter alia, combating radicalisation online.

The aim of EU funded projects in this field is to support local authorities in enhancing the institutional and technical capacity of partner countries' law enforcement agencies, in averting, investigating and prosecuting terrorism offences, originating both online and offline. These projects are always accompanied by measures providing legal assistance and capacity building on the lawful use of such techniques, covering also the protection of fundamental rights, including the rights to privacy and data protection.

The EU seeks to mainstream human rights into all its policies and capacity-building projects. Regular assessment and evaluation of the respect for international human rights law and standards by the beneficiary authorities of these projects is an essential element for the continuation of the assistance provided.

In the context of the security sector partnerships, the EU ensures the mainstreaming of human rights into its policies as well as its development assistance.

Moreover, a number of projects funded by the EU focus on strengthening the independence of key monitoring and oversight institutions to ensure transparency and compliance with human rights standards.

These programmes advise national authorities and provide training, technical assistance and mentoring on how to adapt national legislation to respect such standards.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/44521/st08910-en20.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/11/13/joint-statement-by-the-eu-home-affairs-ministers-on-the-recent-terrorist-attacks-in-europe/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/47296/1011-12-20-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>