

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003072/24
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (Pfe)
(20 December 2024)**

Subject: Worrying rise in terrorism threat level in Europe

The Foundation for Political Innovation's report on terrorism ⁽¹⁾ highlights a worrying rise in the terrorism threat level in Europe, due in particular to the spread of radical Islamism. Between 2015 and April 2024, Europe experienced a surge in terrorist attacks, particularly in France, where more than 250 people have died in Islamist attacks.

Despite the many alerts sounded, only piecemeal measures that do match up to the scale of the risk posed to European communities' safety and values seem to have been taken in Europe. This situation requires a strong response and commitment from Member States to protect their citizens and stem the flow of radicalisation.

1. What specific action will Commission take to step up coordination between Member States in order to ensure an effective response to the terrorism threat, especially as regards information sharing and the monitoring of individuals at risk?
2. Given the rise in Islamist threats, does it plan to tighten its migration policy and exercise more robust oversight over foreign funding to religious associations in Europe?
3. Finally, could provide details on its initiatives to better counter extremist content online and to support the Member States in preventing radicalisation, especially among young people?

Submitted: 20.12.2024

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(9 April 2025)**

While national security is a competence of the Member States ⁽¹⁾, the Commission has supported the Member States to counter terrorism as regards the protection of public spaces ⁽²⁾ and countering threats posed by non-cooperative drones ⁽³⁾.

Considering the high and fast evolving security threat in the EU, the Commission has adopted a new Internal Security Strategy ⁽⁴⁾ and is preparing a new Agenda on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism ⁽⁵⁾.

The Commission will also propose to strengthen the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), whose mandate was already reinforced in 2022 ⁽⁶⁾.

The Pact on Migration and Asylum ⁽⁷⁾ entered into force in June 2024 and will enter into application in June 2026. This will ensure that the EU has strong and secure external borders, that people's rights are guaranteed, and that no EU country is left alone under pressure.

The status of churches and religious associations is defined by the national laws of Member States ⁽⁸⁾ thus matters concerning the foreign funding of religious associations fall within their competence.

The Commission is supporting Member States to develop and implement policies and strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism at national level through the EU Knowledge Hub on Prevention of Radicalisation ⁽⁹⁾ with particular attention paid to youth.

Furthermore, the EU Internet Forum ⁽¹⁰⁾ brings together technology companies, Member States, and other relevant actors to develop concrete actions to address violent extremist and terrorist content online.

¹ https://www.fondapol.org/app/uploads/2024/10/enquete-terrorisme_2024_fr_2024-09-16_w.pdf

⁽¹⁾ Article 4(2) of the Treaty of the European Union.

⁽²⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/counter-terrorism-and-radicalisation/protection_en

⁽³⁾ Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on countering potential threats posed by drones, COM(2023) 659 final.

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_920

⁽⁵⁾ Announced in the Political Guidelines for the next European Commission (2024-2029), https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf

⁽⁶⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2022 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/794, as regards Europol's cooperation with private parties, the processing of personal data by Europol in support of criminal investigations, and Europol's role in research and innovation.

⁽⁷⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a New Pact on Migration and Asylum, COM(2020) 609 final.

⁽⁸⁾ Article 17 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

⁽⁹⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/eu-knowledge-hub-prevention-radicalisation_en

⁽¹⁰⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-union-Internet-forum_en

The regulation on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online ⁽¹⁾ requires Member States to issue removal orders of terrorist content to online service providers offering services in the EU.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/784 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online.