(English version)

Question for written answer E-001569/26
to the Commission
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(16 April 2026)

Subject: Antifa=Terrorists: zero tolerance for political violence in Europe

Following a Molotov cocktail attack in Lisbon against peaceful demonstrators, it is urgent to Question Europe's passivity toward organised political violence. Recent events in Portugal, where an individual linked to the Antifa movement threw a Molotov cocktail at peaceful pro-life demonstrators (including young people and children) raise serious concerns about the consistency and resolve of European institutions in tackling political violence. This was not mere public disorder, but a potentially lethal act that, by chance alone, did not result in serious injuries. The mild judicial response and the absence of a clear European stance reinforce a perception of impunity.

At a time when the European Union claims to uphold the rule of law and citizens' security, it is legitimate to question the lack of scrutiny over movements that, under ideological cover, resort to violence as a political tool. Therefore, we ask:

1. Does the Commission intend to reassess the legal framework surrounding movements such as Antifa, considering recent political violence?

2. What objective criteria distinguish radical activism from terrorist threat in the EU?

3. Is the Commission prepared to propose concrete measures to prevent and sanction decentralised networks that promote or carry out violence against civilians?

Submitted: 16.4.2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(15 June 2026)

The Commission condemns all forms of violence. Violent extremism poses a serious threat to social cohesion and democratic values, as highlighted in the 2025 Communication on a European Democracy Shield ([1]).

The EU Directive (EU) 2017/541 ([2]) on combating terrorism establishes minimum rules concerning the definitions of offences that Member States must classify as terrorist offences in national law, and related sanctions.

In addition, the February 2026 ProtectEU Agenda to prevent and counter terrorism ([3]) reinforces the EU's collective response to evolving terrorist and violent extremist threats.

It includes measures to prevent radicalisation, notably through the EU knowledge hub ([4]), to tackle terrorist and extremist content online, and to reinforce law enforcement cooperation, including by enhancing the analytical capabilities of the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol).

National security, public order and investigations into terrorist and extremist attacks are competences of the Member States according to the Treaties.

Therefore, the incident referred to falls under national criminal law and judicial jurisdiction. It is for the Member States to apply the law, to assess whether the case in question would fall under the definition of terrorist offences, and, where appropriate, to take measures to prevent and sanction relevant entities.

([1]) JOIN(2025) 791 final, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0791.
([2]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2017/541/oj/eng.
([3]) COM(2026) 101 final: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52026DC0101.
([4]) https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/eu-knowledge-hub-prevention-radicalisation_en.