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Delegations find in Annex the European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2014.

Chapters 4, 5, 6 and the annexes will be found in document 10420/14 ADD 1.



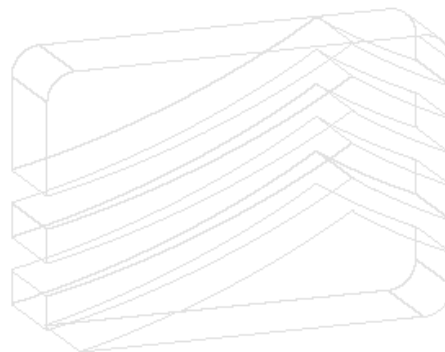
TE-SAT 2014

EUROPEAN UNION TERRORISM SITUATION AND
TREND REPORT 2014



TE-SAT 2014

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TE-SAT 2014

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CONTENTS

		Foreword	7
		Key judgments and trends	9
<hr/>			
GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE EU IN 2013	1	1 General overview of the situation in the EU in 2013	11
		1.1 Terrorist attacks and arrested suspects	11
		1.2 Terrorist and violent extremist activities	12
		1.3 Convictions and Penalties	16
<hr/>			
RELIGIOUSLY INSPIRED TERRORISM	2	2 Religiously inspired terrorism	21
		2.1 Terrorist attacks and arrested suspects in the EU	21
		2.2 Terrorist and violent extremist activities	22
		2.3 Travelling for terrorist purposes	23
		2.4 Terrorist situation outside the EU	24
<hr/>			
ETHNO-NATIONALIST AND SEPARATIST TERRORISM	3	3 Ethno-Nationalist and separatist terrorism	29
<hr/>			
LEFT-WING AND ANARCHIST TERRORISM	4	4 Left-wing and anarchist terrorism	35
		4.1 Terrorist attacks and arrested suspects	35
		4.2 Violent extremist activities	36
<hr/>			
RIGHT-WING TERRORISM	5	5 Right-Wing terrorism	39
		5.1 Terrorist attacks and arrested suspects	39
		5.2 Violent right-wing extremism	39
<hr/>			
SINGLE-ISSUE TERRORISM	6	6 Single-issue terrorism	43
		6.1 Terrorist attacks and arrests	43
		6.2 Single-issue extremist activities	43
<hr/>			
ANNEXES		Annexes	45
	1	Overview of the failed, foiled and completed attacks in 2013 per EU Member State and per affiliation	46
	2	Arrests in 2013 per EU Member State and per affiliation	47
	3	Convictions and penalties (Eurojust)	48
	4	Methodology	52
	5	Acronyms	54
	6	Amendments in national legislation on terrorism in 2013	56



“ *The EU
Terrorism
Situation and
Trend Report
(TESAT)
is one result of
the excellent
collaboration
that exists
between
Europol and
Member States.*

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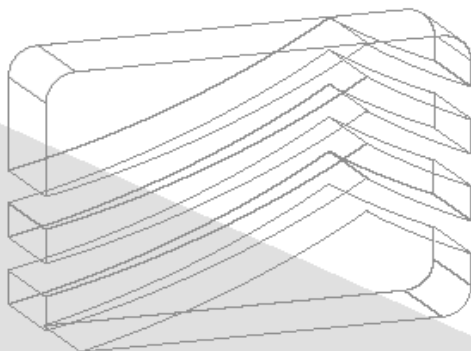
FOREWORD



Acts of terrorism in 2013 caused the death of seven people in the European Union (EU). This, along with the sustained number of Europeans taken hostage by groups or individuals linked to religiously inspired terrorism, demonstrates the continuing terrorist threat posed to the security of citizens and interests of the European Union. The presence of potential or experienced terrorists in the EU, as evidenced by the number of arrests in 2013 for offences related to terrorism, is also a serious cause for concern.

Europol is a unique organisation, offering EU Member States access to its expertise and information capabilities in support to their efforts in fighting serious organised crime and terrorism. The EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) is one result of the excellent collaboration that exists between Europol and Member States. This public document, published annually, presents facts and figures regarding terrorism in the EU for the benefit of law enforcement officials, policy makers and the general public and also seeks to identify developing trends in terrorism. This and previous editions of the TE-SAT reports are available on Europol's website: www.europol.europa.eu.

The Member States of the European Union define terrorism as criminal acts that aim to intimidate populations, compel states to comply with the perpetrators' demands and/or destabilise the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country or international organisation.



The threat from terrorism in Europe remains strong, manifesting itself in various forms and driven by diverse motivations. There is a growing threat from EU citizens, who, having travelled to conflict zones to engage in terrorist activity, return to the European Union with a willingness to commit acts of terrorism. This was especially evident in the case of Syria in 2013. This phenomenon adds a new dimension to the existing threat situation in the European Union, since it provides new groups within Member States with both terrorist intentions and capabilities, which may result in terrorist attacks with unexpected targets and timings. The instability of some Middle East and North African countries directly affects the security of the EU.

I take this opportunity to thank all Member States and Eurojust for their contributions, which are essential to the annual production of the TE-SAT. I would also like to express my gratitude to authorities in Colombia, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America for the information they contributed. Finally, I would like to recognise the work of the members of the Advisory Board, consisting of the 'Troika' (EU Council Presidencies of Lithuania, Greece and Italy), France, Spain, Eurojust, the EU Intelligence Analysis Centre (INTCEN) and the Office of the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator. Their support throughout the year and their valuable contributions were indispensable for the production of this, the 2014 edition of the TE-SAT.

Rob Wainwright
Director of Europol

The terrorist threat in the EU remains acute and diverse. The largest proportion of terrorist attacks in the EU was related to separatist groups, although the number significantly decreased in 2013 compared to previous years. Most separatist incidents, however, were small-scale. The majority of EU Member States continue to consider religiously inspired terrorism as a major threat, as evidenced by the significant increase in the number of arrests. Two attacks and several disrupted plots in 2013 illustrate this threat. Al-Qaeda and like-minded terrorist groups abroad continued to encourage self-organised attacks within the EU aiming for indiscriminate casualties. With regard to left-wing and anarchist terrorism, the number of attacks and arrests increased compared to previous years. Right-wing extremists may exhibit violent and intimidating behaviour, but do not generally employ terrorist *modi operandi*. An exception to this rule in 2013 was a series of four attacks in the UK carried out by one individual. Tactics employed by terrorists of all affiliations differ in their levels of sophistication. New tactics continue to be observed in attempted, completed or foiled attacks.

EU citizens continue to travel to conflict zones to receive training in combat techniques and to engage in armed struggle. The numbers of EU citizens travelling to Syria in particular, including those intending to fight alongside al-Qaeda-affiliated groups, were already substantial and rising, and increased significantly in 2013. It seems likely that Syria will remain the destination of choice for prospective fighters departing from EU Member States, as long as the civil war there continues. In the wake of the Syrian conflict, the threat to the EU is likely to increase exponentially. European fighters, who travel to conflict zones, are assessed as posing an increased threat to all EU Member States on

KEY JUDGMENTS AND TRENDS

their return. They may seek to set up logistical, financial or recruitment cells, and may act as role models to individuals within extremist communities – further enhancing their capacity to encourage others to travel. In addition, their resolve is likely to have strengthened in the conflict zones, and they may have gained the skills and contacts to carry out attacks in the EU.

Developments in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region increase risks in the EU and for EU interests elsewhere. Western nationals and interests continue to be at risk in parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia, where there are high levels of terrorist activity. Kidnapping for ransom is a particular risk. The Arab revolutions, which started in Tunisia in late 2010, have facilitated a consolidation of operational capacities and support bases of terrorist groups that are involved in regional conflicts. Groups motivated by ideologies identical or similar to that of al-Qaeda continue to have a significant impact on the security situation in countries including Afghanistan, Iraq, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. In addition, al-Qaeda affiliates have gained a stronghold in Syria through their involvement in the civil war, which also affects neighbouring countries and other states in the Middle East. This development strengthens the position of these groups, providing safe havens and a range of opportunities, including training and fundraising, with a consequential increased risk for the EU.

The EU continues to serve as an area for financing, logistics, refuge and procurement for terrorist groups that conduct their main activities outside Europe. This applies in particular, but not exclusively, to the Turkish terrorist groups PKK and DHKP/C, terrorist groups from the Northern Caucasus and the Lebanese Hezbollah, whose main operational activities are not focused on the EU or EU interests.

More and more issues that were traditionally deemed left-wing have been adopted by right-wing activists. As well as anti-capitalism, anti-globalism and animal rights, right-wing extremists now also engage in campaigning against genetically modified food. Right-wing extremist groups or individual activists mainly cause public order problems and community tension. They may also occasionally be engaged in serious crime, but only present a terrorist threat in exceptional cases. As in previous years, individuals and groups motivated by an enmity to Islam, such as the 'Defence League' branches in EU Member States, remain active and maintain international links.

Left-wing and anarchist terrorist attacks and arrests increased in 2013, while overall activities of left-wing and anarchist extremists decreased. Left-wing and anarchist extremists continue to be primarily motivated by domestic politics. However, efforts are made to establish and maintain international contacts between like-minded groups. In the left-wing and anarchist scene, individuals willing to engage in violent acts are usually a small minority.

Terrorist groups occasionally cooperate with organised crime groups. Pragmatic and/or opportunistic contacts between organised crime groups and terrorist organisations have been observed on occasions. However, this does not seem to be a widespread phenomenon in the EU and is likely to be limited to a small number of terrorist organisations.

Social media offer opportunities to terrorists. Terrorists and violent extremists of all affiliations make abundant use of the Internet, and in particular social media, as pivotal tools for planning, targeting, recruitment, communication, bonding, instruction, training and propaganda. Social media are believed to have contributed to the acceleration of (self-)radicalisation among EU nationals.



GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE EU IN 2013

- ➔ In 2013, 7 people died as a result of terrorist attacks in the EU
- ➔ 152 terrorist attacks carried out in EU Member States
- ➔ 535 individuals arrested in the EU for terrorism related offences
- ➔ Court proceedings for terrorism charges concluded in relation to 313 individuals

1 GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE EU IN 2013

1.1 Terrorist attacks and arrested suspects

In 2013 seven people were killed in terrorist attacks in the European Union (EU): one British army soldier in London (UK), one elderly Muslim male in the West Midlands (UK), two members of a right-wing extremist party in Athens (Greece) and three high-ranking *Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan* (PKK, Kurdistan Workers' Party) members in Paris (France).

A total of 152 terrorist attacks occurred in five EU Member States. The majority took place in France (63), Spain (33) and the UK (35).¹ After an increase in 2012, the number of terrorist attacks in 2013 fell below the number recorded in 2011.

As in previous years, the majority of attacks can be attributed to separatist terrorism. The number of attacks related to left-wing and anarchist terrorism rose in 2013, thereby ending the downward trend observed in previous years. No attacks related to single-issue terrorism were reported in 2013. EU Member States did not report any terrorist attacks specifically classified as right-wing or religiously inspired terrorism for the period 2013. However, in at least two attacks, including the murder of the British soldier, the role of religious extremism appears to be evident. Furthermore, in the UK, an individual motivated by right-wing extremist ideology carried out four attacks, including the murder in the West Midlands.¹

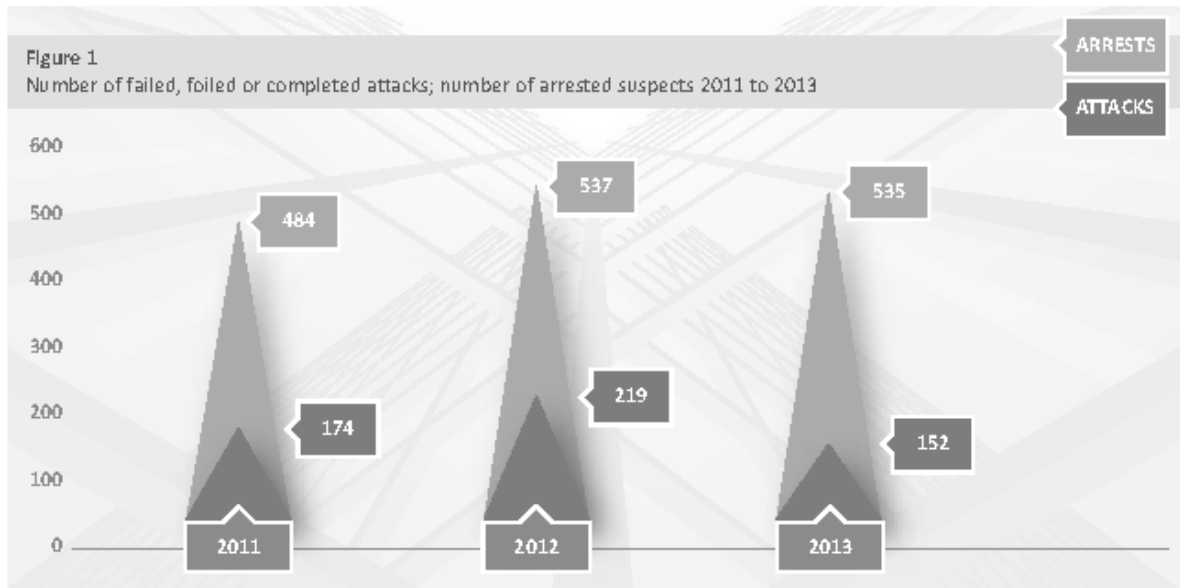
In 2013, 535 individuals were arrested for offences related to terrorism,² a number similar to 2012 (537). Most of the arrests occurred in France (225), Spain (90) and the UK (77). A continuous increase in the number of arrests for religiously inspired terrorism has been observed since 2011, whereas arrests for separatist terrorism have significantly decreased.

As well as the increase in left-wing and anarchist terrorist attacks, there was also an increase in the number of arrests in this domain, from 19 in 2012 to 49 in 2013. Reported arrests related to right-wing terrorism remained low and decreased from ten in 2012 to three in 2013 (this figure does not include the arrest of the perpetrator of the West Midlands murder).¹ In addition, three arrests were reported by Bulgaria and Italy for single-issue terrorism.

In 2013 the number of arrests increased for preparation and execution of attacks; financing of terrorism; and travelling, facilitating travel or sending fighters to conflict zones, especially Syria. In previous years, arrests had been predominantly related to membership of a terrorist organisation.

¹ For an overview of all attacks per EU Member State and per affiliation, see Annex 1.

² For an overview of all arrests per EU Member State and per affiliation, see Annex 2. For the UK, figures represent the number of charges in 2013, to provide a more accurate comparison with the number of judicial arrests in the other EU Member States. However, at this stage in the criminal justice process, it is not possible for the UK to assign an affiliation to individual cases.



1.2 Terrorist and violent extremist activities

Financing of terrorism

Terrorists have developed a pragmatic approach to fundraising. This is reflected in the myriad of methods employed, including criminal activities of various kinds and legitimate (e.g. the sale of publications and paraphernalia) or 'semi-legal' activities (e.g. 'taxes' collected from specific communities or the misuse of charitable donations).

The PKK has long utilised Kurdish communities in Western Europe to generate substantial financial support. The financing of the organisation is mainly achieved through membership fees, sales of publications and proceeds from events. In addition, each year, members of the PKK leadership organise a donation campaign to collect funds. On 12 February 2013, 23 people were arrested by police in operations across France and Spain on suspicion of having links to the PKK or being involved in its financing.

A novel criminal funding method was observed in Belgium in 2013. Members of the Kurdish community were targeted by an individual offering to manipulate the electricity meter in their household or workplace. In payment for this service, the approached individuals were expected to provide a part of their illicitly generated savings. It is suspected that considerable sums were obtained in this way and transferred to support the PKK.

In another case within the EU in 2013, it is suspected that stolen bank and credit cards, theft, pick-pocketing and the sale of stolen goods were used to provide financial assistance to an Algerian organisation with links to al-Qaeda.

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), like other terrorist groups based outside the EU, is notorious for using kidnapping to generate revenue.³ UN Member States are required, under UN Security Council resolution 1904 (2009), to prevent ransom payments, directly or indirectly, to terrorists under the UN al-Qaeda sanctions regime. In December 2013, a proposal was made for an additional UN resolution calling to ban such payments to all terrorist entities.

Funding activities encountered in investigations into right-wing extremism in EU Member States in 2013 largely remained below the criminal threshold. They included the selling of fanzines, CDs with White Power Music (WPM) and other merchandise. Right-wing extremist groups finance their activities via music events and the sale of associated items, which equally serve as a platform for propaganda. One financial goal of right-wing extremists is to purchase suitable premises to ensure the hosting of their events and to control the resulting revenue streams.

Several investigations in EU Member States have concerned the misuse of charities and non-profit organisations in order to collect funds for terrorist entities. In most cases, calls for donations were published on Internet sites and forums. In one counter-terrorism investigation, it was noted that supposed humanitarian aid activities were promoted via Facebook. Monetary donations were requested via an associated PayPal account. Examples of charity misuse have been evidenced in

³ For more information, see 2.4 Terrorist situation outside the EU.

support of several terrorist entities including the *Dawrimci Halk Kurtuluş Partisi/Cephesi* (DHKP/C, Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front) and HAMAS. Furthermore, some non-profit organisations are also suspected of serving as fronts for disseminating terrorist propaganda and financing the recruitment of young persons for the conflict in Syria.

Raised funds are moved by various means, including money remittance companies, *kawala* traders, and/or the use of anonymous ('bearer') or preloaded value cards. The sale of prepaid phone cards has also been observed in the financing of terrorist entities.

A standard method for money movements in support of terrorism involves the use of cash couriers. Large quantities of cash have been intercepted at hub airports and transnational rail stations. It is suspected that these had been gathered from donations and other enterprises. For example, in November 2013, two Lebanese passengers were found in possession of nearly EUR 770 000 at Brussels airport. Although there is no firm evidence, it was suspected that at least some of this cash was destined to finance Hezbollah ('party of God') in Lebanon. In July 2013, the military wing of Hezbollah was added to the EU list of terrorist organisations.⁴

Most counter-terrorism investigations have a financial component, usually with regards to recruitment, travel, operational and/or logistical support. In July 2013, for example, a French national was arrested in Kenya along with two *Harakat al-Shabab al-Mujahidin* (HSM, Young Mujahidin Movement) operatives for illegally entering the country. The three men were wanted in the EU on terrorist charges. Information derived from the Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (TFTP)⁵ identified previously unknown financial associates of the suspect.

The nexus between terrorism and organised crime

Terrorist groups have been observed to outsource certain crimes to criminals, who do not have terrorist motives, in order to compensate for their lack of expertise and maintain operational security, instead of engaging in those criminal activities themselves. Cooperation may take the form of pragmatic, short- or long-term relationships with the aim of providing not only funding, but all kinds of goods or services that terrorist groups cannot procure themselves or that cannot be obtained legally. Such services may include the supply of forged identity documents, weapons, transportation and contacts. For instance, ETA in Spain and Dissident Republican (DR) groups in Northern Ireland (UK)



have in the past been suspected of having ties to organised crime groups in the Balkan countries and to the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (FARC, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) in South America.⁶

Although bonds between criminal and terrorist groups constitute a potential security threat, they are not currently considered to be a significant phenomenon in the EU. Whereas terrorist groups, due to their political objectives, are in need of media attention, organised crime groups avoid attracting public attention. In addition, organised crime groups may fear that terrorist groups aspire to take over their activities, and terrorist groups may be concerned with losing their political and ideological credibility if their cooperation with criminals comes to light. Such concerns stand in the way of the development of lasting cooperation structures.

Nevertheless, Romania reported that, in May 2013, an Iraqi and a Lebanese citizen were declared inadmissible persons due to their involvement in terrorism-linked illegal migration activities, aimed at facilitating their fellow nationals' entry into Romania and Europe, as well as being involved in drugs and arms trafficking in support of the Syrian insurgency. In addition, Romanian authorities investigated four Afghan nationals with links to the Afghan Taliban, who were believed to have links to illegal migration networks. Bulgaria also reported that some individuals travelling to Syria had interacted with Bulgarian criminals to acquire false identity documents for their journey to Syria.

⁴ Council Implementing Regulation (EU) No 714/2013, 25 July 2013.

⁵ In 2001 the Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (TFTP) was introduced in the USA. From 2010 onwards, the EU/US TFTP agreement, in which Europol plays an implementing role, has provided valuable information, which has been disseminated to EU Member States. Pursuant to the EU/US TFTP agreement, Europol verifies whether a request for information by the US Treasury complies with the terms of the agreement. It also requests and receives information from the US Treasury. The EU/US TFTP agreement ensures the application of EU data protection requirements.

⁶ European Parliament, Directorate General for Internal Policies, Policy department C, *Europe's Crime-Terror Nexus: links between terrorist and organised crime groups in the European Union*, 2012.

Explosives

In 2013 terrorists' use of commercial explosives was almost non-existent in the EU. In most attacks reported by EU Member States, the improvised explosive devices (IEDs) incorporated home-made explosives (HMEs) and pyrotechnic mixtures as the main charge, combined with improvised initiators. The HMEs were in most cases 'blended' rather than 'cooked'.⁷

The modus operandi in building IEDs differed in individual EU Member States. Terrorists in Corsica (France) continued building IEDs, mainly pyrotechnically initiated, in which gas canisters were incorporated in order to increase the potential damage to the buildings targeted.

Attacks in Northern Ireland (UK) predominantly incorporated ammonium nitrate mixtures as the main charge of large IEDs, such as vehicle-borne IEDs (VBIEDs) and improvised mortars. Smaller devices, like pipe bombs, used fire-work composition or pyrotechnic mixtures.

Left-wing terrorists in Italy, Greece and Spain used IEDs that were mainly composed of powders and pyrotechnic mixtures, also known as 'low explosives'. These devices were rudimentarily constructed and mainly based on designs from manuals available on the Internet.

IEDs analysed by Europol in 2013 showed a continuing trend towards a lower level of sophistication in their construction, which was already apparent in 2012. Less expertise was required for the construction, and the explosives used as the main charge had lower detonation velocities. Reduced sophistication, however, does not imply a lower level of potential lethality. IEDs, even those with low explosives, remain potentially lethal due to the high speed projection of their components.

In 2013 the number of seizures of chemical precursors for the production of HMEs, reported in terrorism investigations, decreased significantly. The EU Member States have implemented policies and actions in order to control the illicit procurement and use of these chemicals.

Communication

Terrorist groups maintain a strong need for public communication. Groups using terrorist tactics for political reasons aim at generating a response from the public that they address. They try to convince audiences, whose interests they purport to defend, of the legitimacy of their struggle and the terrorist tactics used. This is necessary because, while not profit-oriented, such groups need funds, volunteers and shelter to carry out their activities.

⁷ 'Blended' HME only requires the mixture of different chemical precursors to obtain the explosive material. 'Cooked' HME, by contrast, requires chemical reactions and laboratory processes.

The Internet remains an essential platform for communication between terrorist organisations and their sympathisers, as well as a medium for issuing threats.

Internet forums continue to be crucial in the dissemination of propaganda by religiously inspired terrorist groups. These forums connect terrorist groups to thousands of Internet users, who in turn can relay the content to a potentially unlimited audience. Some terrorist organisations have designated particular forums or media outlets as their official communication channels. Investigations within EU Member States have also shown that some al-Qaeda-affiliated Arabic-language Internet forums were administrated by EU citizens or residents, or hosted by Internet service providers (ISPs) based in the EU.

Social media on the Internet continue to increase in importance for communication between terrorist groups and supporters worldwide. They offer opportunities for tailored access to, and interaction with, supporters and potential recruits of terrorist groups. This has perhaps contributed to the short time-scales in which some individuals have become self-radicalised. On several occasions, terrorist Internet forums were taken down by hacking attacks or law enforcement intervention in 2013. Consequently, terrorist propagandists increasingly relied on social media, such as Facebook, Twitter or YouTube, to continue publishing their messages. Some terrorist groups now officially designate social media accounts as their primary propaganda outlets.

The nature of social media allows terrorist groups and individuals in conflict zones to provide their followers with real-time updates of their activities. However, this approach has resulted in the trusted forums, and their administrators, being bypassed and losing control of the propaganda message. It has also made it much more difficult to contain debates and conflicts between competing factions. This was evident in 2013 in the dispute between the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and *Jabhat al-Nusra* ('support front') in Syria, which manifested itself on Twitter. All messages concerning the groups' differences were banned from the major terrorist forums. Nevertheless, forum administrators, whose aim is to safeguard the unity of jihadist discourse, were unable to contain the rhetoric.

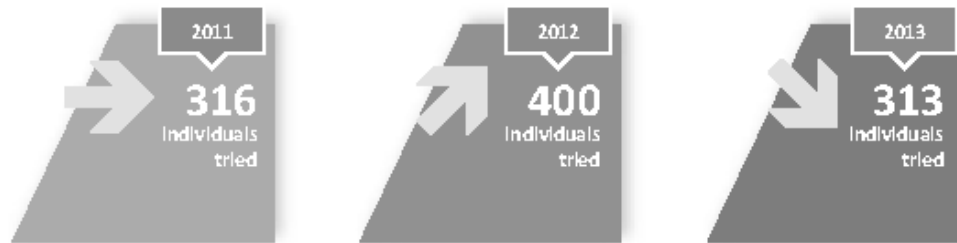
Some social media companies, including Facebook and Twitter, have taken steps against abusive usage. With regard to right-wing extremists, it has been noted that individuals whose accounts were suspended moved on to alternative and less rigorously controlled international platforms.

An increased level of security awareness is evident among extremists on the Internet. They have made use of commonly available anonymisation software (e.g. TOR), encryption applications designed and propagated by extremist groups (e.g. 'Mujahideen Secrets' and 'Asrar al-Dardashah') and private chatrooms (e.g. Paltalk) - albeit not necessarily on a regular basis.

Figure 2
Terrorist attacks and arrests in the EU in 2013



Figure 3
Number of individuals in concluded court proceedings for terrorist offences in 2011, 2012 and 2013 as reported to Eurojust¹¹



1.3 Convictions and Penalties⁸

In 2013, 15 EU Member States reported having concluded a total of 150 court proceedings on terrorism-related charges.⁹ The number of concluded court proceedings is similar to the figure reported in 2012 (149). The relevant court decisions in 2013 concerned terrorist offences, some of which dated back to the 1980s.

The court proceedings concluded in 2013 involved 313 individuals, 42 of whom were female. Twelve of the individuals appeared in court several times for different offences. One of them was tried in both France and Spain on different charges. In addition to the 313 individuals, two legal entities in Denmark and one legal entity in France were convicted for having committed terrorist offences. In Ireland, two individuals were brought to court on terrorism charges but the prosecution entered a *nolle prosequi* (declining to pursue the case against the defendants).¹⁰ As a result, the total number of verdicts pronounced for terrorism-related offences in 2013 was 336.

In 2013 Spain was the Member State in which the highest number of court proceedings for terrorist offences were concluded. Despite a slight decrease, Spain also remains the country in which the majority of terrorism verdicts were rendered. Courts in some other Member States pronounced fewer verdicts in 2013 compared to previous years. This was the case for Belgium, France and Italy. In 2013 Cyprus and Romania reported terrorism-related decisions to Eurojust for the first time.

The majority of the reported verdicts were final, while others are pending judicial remedy due to the fact that appeals have been submitted.

In 2013 separatist terrorism continued to be the dominant type of terrorism in court proceedings.¹² The vast majority of separatist terrorism verdicts were pronounced in Spain and France. A large part (29) of the 42 female defendants was tried for separatist terrorism acts, which confirms a tendency observed in recent years. In Greece all relevant verdicts were related to left-wing terrorism, while Italy was the only Member State that reported right-wing terrorism verdicts in 2013.

Separatist terrorism cases concerned acts related to ETA, Dissident Republican groups and the PKK. In Denmark, for example, the High Court of Eastern Denmark dealt with the appeal against the guilty verdicts pronounced in 2012 by the Copenhagen City Court against Roj TV A/S and Mesopotamia Broadcast A/S METV. As reported in the TE-SAT 2013,¹³ both entities were prosecuted for repeatedly broadcasting PKK-related television programmes, thereby functioning as a mouthpiece for the PKK, as well as disseminating invitations to join the organisation and participate in its terrorist activities, while glorifying the PKK and its terrorist activities. The Copenhagen City Court found them guilty of aiding and abetting a terrorist organisation and sentenced each to pay a fine of DKK 2 600 000 (EUR 350 000). The PKK is listed as a terrorist organisation by the EU. However, this does not suffice in itself to consider the PKK a terrorist organisation in Denmark. The High Court found Roj TV A/S and Mesopotamia Broadcast A/S METV guilty of having aided and abetted the activities of the PKK, which, in its July 2013 judgment, it found to be a terrorist organisation. Roj TV A/S and Mesopotamia Broadcast A/S METV were each sentenced to pay a fine of DKK 5 000 000.

8 Please refer to Annex 3 for additional information and clarification on the numbers mentioned in this section.
9 The UK's submission covers England, Scotland and Wales but not Northern Ireland. The data received from the Republic of Ireland does not cover the whole of 2013. The data for the Netherlands includes two verdicts concerning animal rights extremism.
10 The two individuals are included in the number of individuals in concluded court proceedings for terrorism charges in 2013 but not in the number of verdicts.
11 The data for the previous years corresponds to the data reported to Eurojust and included in the respective TE-SAT reports.

12 The data provided by the UK was not broken down by type of terrorism and therefore is not included in the findings related to the different types of terrorism.
13 Eurapol, *EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2013*, p. 14.



(EUR 670 000) and were disqualified from transmitting television broadcasts until further notice.

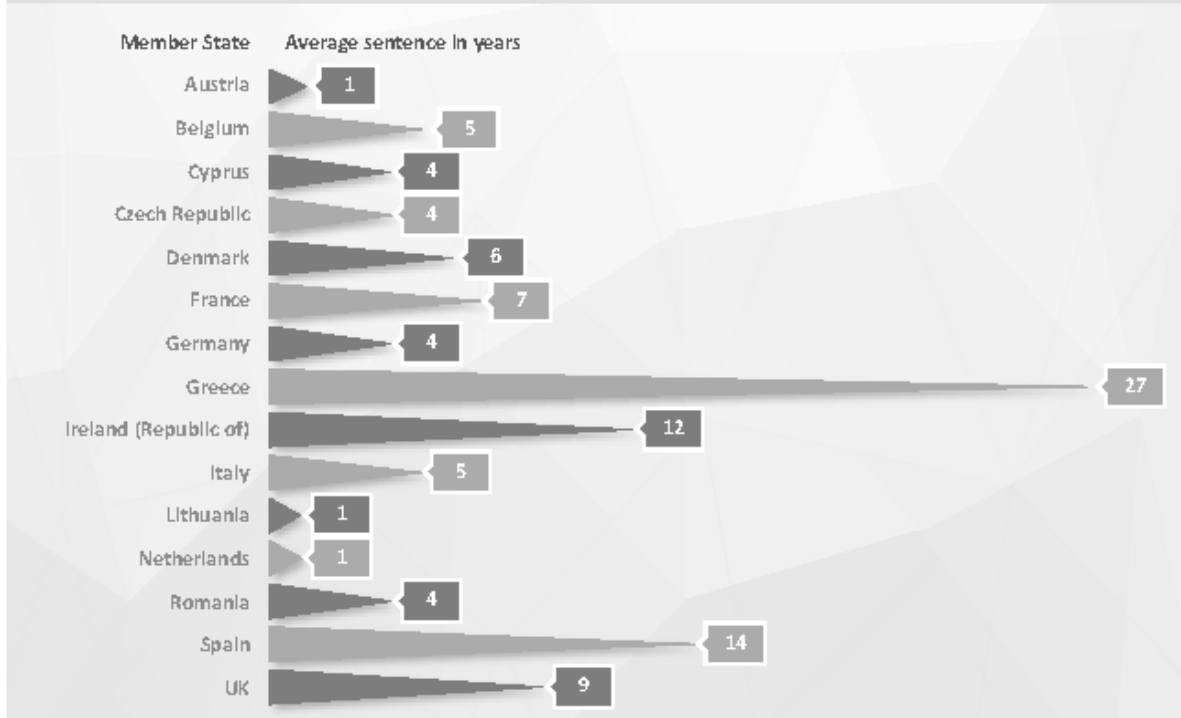
In 2013, as in the previous year, all court decisions in Austria, Belgium and the Czech Republic concerned religiously inspired terrorism. In two other cases of religiously inspired terrorism, two Dutch individuals preparing to go to Syria and join the armed rebel groups there were convicted by a Dutch court. The defendants were brought to court on several charges, including (preparation for) the commission of a terrorist crime. In the first proceeding at the Rotterdam District Court, the defendant expressed his wish to travel to Syria and join the armed fight there and had undertaken a series of preparatory activities, aside from booking tickets to Turkey and packing his suitcase. He had also visited websites, on which information about (violent) 'jihad' and 'martyrdom' was shared, and had sent multiple messages in which he had stated, among other things, that he wanted to fight on the side of the 'mujahidin' and also fight for the establishment of an Islamic state or the implementation of the shari'a. According to his defence, the acts described in the summons were not punishable due to the fact that there was an internal armed conflict in Syria and international humanitarian law was applicable. The court rejected this argument and ruled that the defendant, with a view to preparing to commit murder, had committed all acts as charged. The acts undertaken by the defendant were seen as preparatory for his departure to Syria in order to take part in the armed 'jihad' against the Syrian regime and to establish an Islamic state. With this in

mind, as well as the personality and personal circumstances of the defendant and his established mental disorder, the court ruled that he should be placed in a psychiatric clinic for a period of one year.

In the second proceeding, the Rotterdam District Court found the defendant guilty of preparing to commit arson and/or cause an explosion, and distributing material inciting a terrorist crime. The defendant had visited websites and made queries about home-made bombs and explosives, purchased 10 metres of ignition fuse and one kilogramme of aluminium powder, as well as other materials that could be used to make explosives. He had also posted videos showing the execution of violent attacks and some extremist texts on websites and engaged in discussions about armed 'jihad' on the Internet. According to the prosecution, he had also visited websites on which information about 'jihad' and 'martyrdom' was shared, obtained a travel visa for Saudi Arabia and undertaken a trip to Turkey (via Germany) with Syria as the final destination. He was arrested in Germany before he could reach Syria. The court sentenced him to a prison term of 12 months, four of which were suspended, with a probationary period of two years.

In both cases, the court emphasised the seriousness of the offences and pointed out that these acts should be considered in a terrorist context, namely that of participation in the armed 'jihad' in Syria.

Figure 4
Average sentences (excluding non-prison penalties) per Member State in 2013 as reported to Eurojust



In 2013 all reported terrorism-related prosecutions in Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Germany, the Republic of Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania and the UK resulted in convictions.¹⁴ Germany and the Netherlands are the only EU Member States that reported no acquittals in the period 2010-2013.

In 2013 acquittals constituted 23% of all verdicts pronounced for terrorist offences. The percentage of acquittals decreased compared to 2011 (31%) and 2012 (30%), indicating a higher percentage of successful terrorist prosecutions. Seventeen of the 42 female defendants in the concluded court proceedings reported in 2013 were acquitted. The majority of the acquitted females (14) were brought to court on charges related to separatist terrorist acts.

The verdicts in relation to left-wing terrorism in 2013 had the highest acquittal rate (43%), which is unlike previous years, in which the highest acquittal rates were reported for verdicts related to separatist and religiously inspired terrorism. In 2013, 34% of the separatist terrorism verdicts contained acquittals. With a conviction rate of 99%, prosecutions for religiously inspired terrorism were the most successful.

¹⁴ The UK data for 2013 refers only to convictions.

The court proceedings for terrorist offences resulted in prison sentences ranging from three days to life imprisonment. In some cases, (part of) the sentence was suspended or made conditional for a certain period of time.

The majority (47%) of penalties handed down with guilty verdicts in 2013 were five years' imprisonment or below. Penalties of 10 or more years constituted 33% of all penalties pronounced - an increase compared to 2012, when they represented 24% of the total. In some trials, for example in France, the Republic of Ireland and the UK, the courts ordered sentences of life imprisonment. In Spain, cumulative sentences of up to 3 860 years' imprisonment were given for separatist terrorism offences.

The average prison sentence imposed in 2013 in the EU for acts of terrorism was approximately 10 years, which is higher than the reported average for 2011 and 2012 (8 years). In 2013 average prison sentences for terrorist offences were highest in Greece (27 years), Spain (14 years) and Ireland (12 years). In France, Greece, Spain and the UK, the average penalty increased compared to 2012.¹⁵

¹⁵ For the purpose of the calculation of the average prison sentence, penalties exceeding 40 years of imprisonment and life sentences were counted as 40 years. In cases in which the court ordered a minimum number of years of a life sentence to be served, the sentence was included in the overview with the minimum number of years indicated.

In 2013 left-wing terrorism verdicts received the highest average prison sentence (18 years), followed by separatist terrorism verdicts (13 years). These average prison sentences were considerably higher than the averages reported in 2012 (8 and 9 years respectively). The average prison sentence given for religiously inspired terrorist offences in 2013 decreased to 4 years, compared to 6 years in 2012.

In some cases, in addition to imprisonment, convicted individuals had their civil rights restricted, were banned from entering the national territory upon completion of their prison term or ordered to do community service. Occasionally, national courts imposed a pecuniary penalty as the only penalty or in combination with a prison term. The two legal entities convicted in Denmark, for example, were sentenced to pay a fine, while the legal entity found guilty of terrorism in France was dissolved. In other cases, prison sentences were pronounced as an alternative to pecuniary penalties. In Germany, youth sentences were handed down to two defendants found guilty of terrorist offences. In one case in the UK, the court issued a hospital order, and in the Netherlands one individual was placed in a psychiatric clinic for a period of one year.



RELIGIOUSLY INSPIRED TERRORISM

- ➔ **1 person killed in a religiously inspired attack**
- ➔ **Several plots disrupted**
- ➔ **Significant increase in arrests for religiously inspired terrorism from 159 in 2012 to 216 in 2013**
- ➔ **Increase in arrests for recruitment and travelling for terrorist purposes to conflict zones, in particular Syria**
- ➔ **Religiously inspired terrorist groups continued inciting individuals in the EU to perpetrate self-organised attacks**

2 RELIGIOUSLY INSPIRED TERRORISM

2.1 Terrorist attacks and arrested suspects in the EU

European Union (EU) Member States reported no terrorist attacks specifically classified as religiously inspired terrorism for the 2013 period. However, in at least two attacks, the role of religious radicalisation appears to be evident.

On 22 May 2013, an off-duty British army soldier was murdered in the vicinity of army barracks in Woolwich, London (UK). The attackers initially used a car to run him over, before repeatedly stabbing him with bladed weapons. The two suspects – British Muslim converts of Nigerian descent – were arrested at the scene. Further arrests of their associates were made from May onwards. The assailants were self-organised but previously had links to radical Muslim groups in the UK (*al-Muhajiroun* and its later incarnation, the Sharia4 movement).¹⁶ One of the suspects was also believed to have attempted to travel to Somalia in the past in order to join *Harakat al-Shabab al-Mujahidin* (HSM, Young Mujahidin Movement). Both attackers were convicted of the murder in December 2013.

On 25 May 2013, just three days after the aforementioned attack, a French soldier was targeted in a non-fatal knife attack in La Défense near Paris (France) by an individual who converted to Islam and radicalised in an extremely short period of time.

The threat from self-radicalised, self-organised and self-financed individuals was underlined in 2013 through the

disruption of terrorist plots in several EU Member States, including Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK. Several of the arrested suspects had criminal backgrounds. Only a limited number appeared to be connected to terrorist groups based outside the EU.

In March, weapons and material for producing improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were found at the home of one of three suspects arrested in Marignane (France). They reportedly sought to emulate Mohamed Merah¹⁷ and potentially planned to commemorate the first anniversary of his shootings. In October, three individuals linked to the group responsible for a 2012 grenade attack on a Jewish grocery in Paris¹⁸ were arrested, after material believed to be intended for the preparation of terrorist attacks was found. Other cell members are believed to have fled to Syria.

In March 2013 in Germany, four individuals belonging to radical salafist¹⁹ circles were arrested, suspected of being members of a 'home-grown' terrorist group. Their aim was to assassinate the leader of the right-wing extremist party PRO NRW.²⁰

¹⁶ The Sharia4 movement is a network of radical Muslim groups united by a common ideology based on that of the former *al-Muhajiroun*. It has branches (either virtual or actual) across Europe, including Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia and Spain. See Europa, *Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2013*, p. 18.

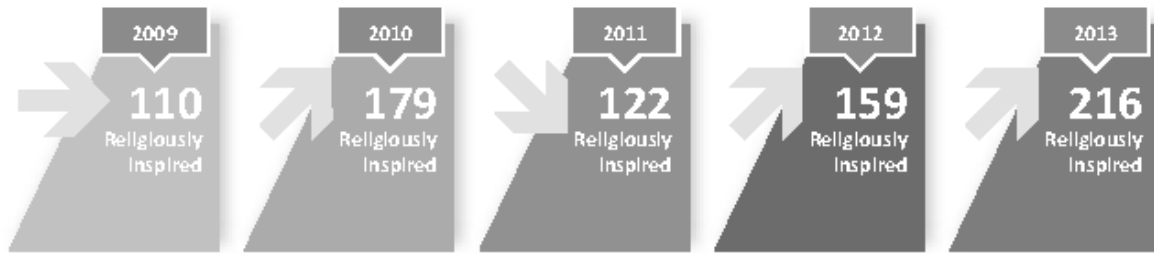
¹⁷ In March 2012, Mohammed Merah carried out a series of three gun attacks against French soldiers and Jewish civilians in Toulouse and Montauban, killing seven people in total. *Ibid.*, p. 17.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 17.

¹⁹ Salafism is first and foremost a religious movement. Salafist communities may have certain theological preferences in common, but they can have widely different, often diametrically opposing, political agendas, ranging from quietist religious propagation to participation in armed struggle. The strand of salafism that legitimises violent action under the concept of 'jihad' is sometimes called *salafiyya jihadiyya*. See Rael Meijer (ed.), *Global salafism: Islam's new religious movement* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009).

²⁰ NRW is the abbreviation used for the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Figure 5
Number of suspects arrested for religiously inspired terrorism 2009 to 2013



Other arrests for religiously inspired terrorism in EU Member States, including France, Italy and Spain, were connected to recruitment networks for violent action outside the EU. France, for example, arrested four militants in the region of Paris as part of an investigation into the recruitment of fighters for al-Qaeda-linked forces in Mali and the Sahel region.

Between June and September 2013, nine individuals were detained in Ceuta (Spain), suspected of belonging to a network dedicated to sending volunteers to Syria, to fight alongside groups including *Jabhat al-Nusra* ('support front') and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The network appears to have had international links to Morocco, Belgium, Turkey and Syria, and to have successfully sent at least 12 young Spanish and Moroccan men to Syria, a number of whom died there in suicide attacks or combat.

In addition, there were a number of arrests and convictions across Europe, including in Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK, in connection to travelling to Syria to participate in the conflict. In July 2013, for instance, a woman linked to an investigation into a broader network of recruiters for Syria was arrested in Rotterdam (Netherlands); she was later released and managed to travel there herself.

Arrests also occurred after individuals returned from Syria. In September 2013, for instance, UK police arrested two British citizens (of Pakistani origin), suspected of attending a training camp in Syria.

Other arrests, including in France, Italy and Spain, were related to the dissemination of terrorist propaganda and bomb-making instructions on the Internet, in particular via social media. In June 2013, for example, Italian police arrested a Moroccan male for providing training for terrorist purposes and inciting religious and racial hatred. He was allegedly the main representative for the Sharia4 movement in Italy and maintained contacts with leading members of the network based in Belgium and the UK. He had gathered information on the Internet on a variety of possible targets in Italy and, reportedly, wanted to join jihadists fighting in Syria.

2.2 Terrorist and violent extremist activities

Logistics

In Austria, investigations suggest that there is an on-going trend with regard to fundraising among sympathisers of the jihadist spectrum. Terrorist financing included support for travel to Syria. In addition, there are a number of followers of the terrorist group 'Caucasus Emirate', an organisation for which Austria (and Europe) appears to serve mainly as an area for financing, logistics and recruitment.

In April 2013, Italian police arrested four members of a 'home-grown' terrorist cell. The Tunisian cell leader, who was among those arrested, was a former imam at a mosque. Among other activities, the group aimed to recruit and train irregular migrants and send them to training camps in Afghanistan, Chechnya, Iraq and Yemen, and supplied them with forged identification documents.

Propaganda and recruitment

Terrorist propaganda by religiously inspired terrorists in 2013 focused on two major topics. Firstly, 'individual jihad'²¹ attacks were encouraged in Western countries, including the EU. Secondly, individuals were incited to participate in fighting and support activities outside the EU.

Since the French military intervention in Mali (Operation Serval) began in January 2013, an increasing number of calls for attacks by individual operatives were broadcast on the Internet, along with instructions on how to make IEDs. Many of them evoked Mohamed Merah.

²¹ The concept of 'individual jihad' has been publicly propagated by the al-Qaeda leadership since June 2011, following the death of Osama bin Laden. In al-Qaeda's definition, 'individual jihad' refers to military operations executed by an individual or a small group with the aim of harming the enemy and inciting other fighters. The attackers act on their own initiative and use the means at their disposal. According to al-Qaeda, 'individual jihad' includes attacks carried out by unaffiliated individuals in Western countries. This definition can be applied to attacks in the EU, such as the one in Woolwich in the UK, but also covers assaults on buildings by small groups.

Foreign terrorist groups also reacted to the attacks in London and Paris and the 15 April 2013 Boston (USA) marathon bombings. The Somali-based HSM celebrated the Woolwich attack in its propaganda, criticised UK foreign policy, encouraged more 'individual jihad' attacks in the UK and exhorted British Muslims to travel overseas to conflict zones. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) produced a special edition of *Inspira* magazine focusing on the Boston bombings and referencing the Woolwich attack in the UK. Another English-language magazine, *Azan*, also published an edition specifically focusing on inciting extremists to conduct attacks in the West (i.e. Europe, as well as Australia, Canada and the USA).

Some salafist individuals and groups in the EU, such as the Sharia4 movement, seem to have heeded the advice of prominent jihadist ideologues to stop their controversial public appearances in Europe, for example demanding the immediate implementation of Islamic law in Europe. Instead, they have been encouraged to participate in what these ideologues describe as a 'jihad' against un-Islamic rule in Muslim countries. Indeed, there are more and more indications that members of Sharia4Belgium, for example, have joined armed groups in Syria adhering to an al-Qaeda-inspired ideology.

2.3 Travelling for terrorist purposes

Individuals and groups that have travelled from the EU to other parts of the world for terrorist purposes are assessed to pose an increased threat to all EU Member States upon their return, even if only a small proportion may be intent on perpetrating attacks in the EU. They are likely to have been further radicalised in the conflict zones and may have gained the skills and contacts to enable future terrorist activities. As well as potential attack planning, they may also seek to set up logistical, financial or recruitment cells and may become local leaders in the extremist community, further enhancing their capacity to encourage others to travel.

In 2013 the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, Somalia, Mali and Yemen continued to attract fighters in varying degrees.

A limited number of EU citizens were arrested in northern Mali. In March, for example, the French military arrested a French-Algerian national in the Hoghas mountains; and in April a 58-year-old French citizen, who had joined al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), was arrested by Malian security forces north of Timbuktu.

In July 2013, three suspected terrorists from France and Belgium, believed to be linked to HSM, were arrested in Kenya after having illegally entered from Somalia. The group reportedly arrived in Kenya via Bulgaria, Turkey and Tanzania in 2011, in order to travel to Somalia.

However, Syria continued to be the destination of choice for travellers seeking to join armed groups. It is believed that the Turkish-Syrian border's accessibility is one factor why more European volunteers travelled to Syria rather than to Afghanistan, Mali, Somalia or Yemen.

With regards to travel routes to Syria, Turkey is the major transit hub: its location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and its vicinity to the Middle East and North Africa, mean that it has also played a role as a transit country for terrorist travel to and from other destinations (for example the Afghanistan-Pakistan region and Somalia). In 2013 it was observed that, as well as direct flights to Turkey from their home countries, a number of people travelled to neighbouring or nearby EU countries first. The popular land routes used to reach Turkey included those via Germany, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Romania, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Bulgaria, Italy and Greece. Travel from Italy and Greece was often via sea ferry.

Many travellers are believed to have funded and organised their journeys to Syria themselves. Some used rented vehicles, which were stolen and used as transportation to and within the Syrian conflict zone.

Bulgaria reported isolated cases, in which those on their way to Syria sought assistance from Bulgarian criminals to obtain false identity documents to facilitate their journeys. The facilitators appeared to be exclusively financially motivated. Other reporting indicates that a group of Syrian na-





2.4 Terrorist situation outside the EU

EU citizens kidnapped or killed

The risk to EU citizens of being kidnapped by religiously inspired terrorist groups is particularly great in West Africa, Yemen and Syria. Although ostensibly politically motivated in some cases, kidnap for ransom appears to be seen by terrorist groups as an attractive and lucrative method to finance their operations. Besides money, AQIM for example, has demanded the withdrawal of French troops from Mali and the release of its incarcerated operatives. Kidnapping is believed to be a major financing source for AQIM - allowing it to grow, facilitate alliances, purchase equipment and weapons and attract financially motivated fighters. At the time of writing, AQIM continued to hold EU citizens hostage in the Sahel region. In October 2012, al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri suggested that his followers should take British, French, Italian or US citizens hostage, with a view to influencing negotiations regarding prisoners in Afghanistan.

Motives for the kidnapping of EU nationals in Syria remain unclear and are currently being investigated. Of particular concern is the significant number of journalists kidnapped. For example, an Italian journalist was abducted in April 2013 and released in early September; in July, a Polish photographer was kidnapped and released in October; in September, three Spanish journalists were also kidnapped, two of whom remained in captivity at the time of writing. One kidnapping of a Belgian resident in Syria was also reported.

In Nigeria, seven foreign workers, including British, Greek and Italian nationals, were seized (and eventually killed) and a security guard shot dead on 17 February 2013 by the jihadist group *Jama'at Ansar al-Muslimin fi Bilad al-Sudan* (Group of the Supporters of Muslims in Black Africa, also known as Ansaru). In February 2013 in Cameroon, Boko Haram,²² or Boko Haram-associated elements, kidnapped seven French nationals (a family, released two months later), apparently in revenge for the French invasion of Northern Mali. Both Ansaru and Boko Haram have links to AQIM, receiving training and financing.

In March 2013, two female Czech tourists were kidnapped in Baluchistan province, south-western Pakistan. The kidnappers reportedly took the captives to Afghanistan. In June 2013, ten persons, including two Slovakian and one Lithuanian tourist, were killed whilst at the base of the Nanga Parbat mountain in Pakistan. Responsibility for this terrorist attack was claimed by *Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan* (TTP, Pakistan Taliban Movement). The group claimed that the murders were in response to the international community's support of drone attacks.

nationals residing in Sofia - some of whom participated in the conflict - organised logistical activities to facilitate the travel of (potential) fighters from Bulgaria to Turkey and on to Syria. In addition, a number of foreign fighters are reported to have travelled to Syria under the cover of legitimate humanitarian aid missions.

Specific organised facilitation networks may be involved in ensuring a smooth transition into the more radical fighting groups, which are believed to operate strict admission policies and require references. There were indications that Sharia4Belgium, for example, may have played a significant role in facilitating individuals to join jihadist groups fighting in Syria. In April 2013, a number of persons were arrested following a judicial investigation into Sharia4Belgium members, some of whom were suspected of recruiting for Syria. Furthermore, in the network dismantled in Ceuta (Spain), each of the members appears to have had different tasks: recruiting and indoctrinating volunteers; obtaining financing; organising relocation logistics; contacting facilitators in transit zones and in the final destination in order to guarantee arrival in the conflict zone; ensuring transfers to training camps, and finally to al-Qaeda-linked fighting groups.

There is no overall official figure available regarding EU citizens travelling to take part in the conflict in Syria, but estimates suggest that, by the end of 2013, they numbered between 1 200 and 2 000. EU nationals and residents are believed to be fighting as members of a number of groups in Syria. Those fighting alongside al-Qaeda-affiliated groups, such as the ISIL and *Jabhat al-Nusra*, were believed to amount to a significant number and, ultimately, pose the greatest threat to the EU.

At the time of writing, the sectarian nature of the Syrian conflict did not seem to have violently manifested itself back in the EU, whether with regards to Sunni and Shi'a Muslims, or Sunni Muslims and supporters of the Kurdish terrorist group *Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan* (PKK, Kurdistan Workers' Party).

²² The name Boko Haram ('Western education is prohibited') is not used by the group itself, which uses the name *Jama'at Ahl al-Sunna Wa-Da'wa wal-Jihad* ('group of the Sunnis for preaching and jihad').

Developments in Africa and the Middle East

In a number of Middle East and North African (MENA) countries, political transformation, which began in 2011, has led to significant change and, in some cases, disruption to countries' legal and security structures, with a resultant impact on EU interests and nationals. Furthermore, some terrorist groups in the region have strengthened their positions and acquired a portion of Libyan-based arsenals. The ramifications were also felt in West African countries, including Nigeria and Cameroon.

The civil war in Syria between the regime and rebel groups continued unabated. In April 2013, the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) tried to present *Jabhat al-Nusra* as its branch in Syria and declared that henceforth it would use the name Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). This was denied by *Jabhat al-Nusra*, which in turn declared itself an independent al-Qaeda affiliate. The ISI's claim was dismissed by al-Qaeda's leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, who instructed the ISI to remain in Iraq and respect *Jabhat al-Nusra*'s lead in Syria. Notwithstanding, members of *Jabhat al-Nusra* in Syria joined the group under its new name, ISIL. Defying the al-Qaeda leadership's orders, the ISIL refused to cease activities in Syria. Tensions between the ISIL and other rebel forces, including *Jabhat al-Nusra*, continued and eventually escalated in the latter part of 2013, when heavy fighting broke out between the ISIL and the rest of the rebel groups. The ISIL actively tried to recruit foreigners, including EU citizens.

The conflict in Syria has attracted radicalised individuals and groups of EU nationals. For example, members of the former German-based *Millatu Ibrahim*, after relocating to Egypt and Libya in 2012,²³ moved to Syria in 2013 from where prominent members disseminated propaganda messages in German. The leader of the group was arrested by Turkish authorities in March 2013, allegedly en route to Syria.

In Mali, the control of the northern territories since early 2012 by a loose alliance of insurgent and terrorist groups,²⁴ most prominently al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), was ended through a French military intervention (Operation Serval), which started in January 2013. Within weeks, the militias were expelled from major cities in northern Mali, of which they had taken control in the preceding months. Some retreated into mountainous areas, from where they have continued terrorist activities, including ambushes and kidnappings. In May 2013, AQIM declared French interests legitimate targets due to France's 'occupation' of Muslim territory in Mali. Although AQIM was weakened by Operation Serval and several of its prominent members were killed, the group maintained a considerable disruptive capability - demonstrated, for example, by the kidnapping and subsequent killing of two French journalists in November 2013 in Kidal.

²³ *Europa, Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2013*, p. 21.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

Terrorists have also fled to neighbouring countries, such as Niger, where they have carried out terrorist suicide operations, including coordinated car bomb attacks on the Arlit uranium mine, a French business interest, and a military academy in Agadez on 23 May 2013, which killed at least 20 people. The attack was claimed by *al-Mulathamun* ('the veiled men'), in cooperation with the *Mouvement pour l'Unité et la Jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest* (MUJAO, Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa).

Al-Mulathamun, which also uses the name 'those who sign in blood', had previously claimed an attack and hostage-taking operation at the In Aménas gas facility in southern Algeria from 16 to 19 January 2013, which resulted in the death of 40 foreign hostages - including EU nationals. The group alleged that the attack was carried out in retaliation to Algeria opening its air space to the French military for its intervention in northern Mali. The attack at In Aménas was the first of that scale conducted by Mokhtar Belmokhtar, the leader of *al-Mulathamun*.

In late August 2013, *al-Mulathamun* merged with the MUJAO to form a joint group dubbed *al-Murabitun* ('those stationed at the frontline'). The group is still holding a French hostage, kidnapped by the MUJAO in Diéma (Mali) in November 2012, and have threatened to target French interests in any location.

In Somalia, despite its expulsion in 2012 from major cities and towns,²⁵ HSM perpetrated a number of terrorist attacks in 2013. Several attacks were carried out against international targets in Mogadishu, including an assault on 19 June 2013 on the offices of the United Nations (UN), which killed 15 people including four expatriate United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) staff.

An attack claimed by HSM on the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi (Kenya) on 21 September 2013 claimed the lives of more than 60 people, including many citizens of Western countries. One of the perpetrators - who did not number more than four men - was a Norwegian citizen of Somali origin.

In 2013 HSM also offered its support to AQIM and warned the citizens of France that they would suffer the consequences of an operation by French special forces that attempted to free a French hostage in Somalia in January. French nationals have been threatened in Somalia, including Somaliland and Puntland, as well as in Djibouti and Ethiopia, where many aid workers are present.

In Yemen, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which in mid-2012 had been driven from the territories that it had occupied a year earlier,²⁶ continued its terrorist activities, including a large-scale attack on the Yemeni ministry of defence and a military hospital in the capital Sana'a in

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 21.

December 2013. There were over 50 victims, including two German development workers. Prior to this, on 6 October 2013, a German national working as a security officer at the German embassy was shot and killed in front of a supermarket in Sana'a; and a Sierra Leonean employee of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was kidnapped on the same day. The UK cites AQAP's capability in developing their attack methodology against civil aviation and in motivating independent attacks through their extremist media output as a key threat to its security.

On 30 June 2013 in Egypt, the military deposed President Muhammad Mursi and his government, which was dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood. The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces assumed power. The Muslim Brotherhood was banned and eventually declared a terrorist group. In the Sinai peninsula, terrorist activities have increased on a dramatic scale, despite rigorous military operations. Terrorist violence spilled over into Cairo and the Nile delta. Two suspected Egyptian terrorists linked to al-Qaeda were arrested in May 2013 for planning a car bomb attack against the French or the American ambassador in Cairo. They were released a month later.

Libya continued to be highly unstable and the availability of weapons there remained high. Militias continued to act in an unrestrained manner, as evidenced, for example, by the temporary abduction of Libyan prime minister Ali Zaydan by members of a militia on 10 October 2013 - apparently in retaliation for the arrest of an alleged al-Qaeda commander in Libya by US special forces.

In April 2013, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) exploded in front of the French embassy in Tripoli, injuring two security staff, and in July 2013 the French Consul in Benghazi was shot at whilst in his vehicle. Italian diplomatic targets in Benghazi and Tripoli were also targeted in 2013. In addition, in October 2013, a VBIED exploded outside the Swedish consulate in Benghazi, seriously damaging the building but causing no casualties.

The southern part of Libya became an area for fighters to fall back to after being chased out of northern Mali by Operation Serval. It also served as a base from where terrorist attacks against Western interests in the region were planned: approximately two-thirds of the individuals (amounting to 20 people) that carried out the In Aménas attack in Algeria are believed to have been trained in Ubari (Libya).

Significant numbers of Tunisians are believed to have joined terrorist groups in the Sahel: more than a third of the terrorists who participated in the attack in In Aménas were Tunisian nationals. *Ansar al-Shari'a* in Tunisia, which was declared a terrorist group by the Tunisian government in August 2013, has built up close associations with AQIM, which strengthened the latter's presence in the country. In October 2013, a suicide bomber detonated his device on a beach, after he was unable to enter a nearby hotel popular with European holiday makers in the seaside resort of Sousse. Nobody else was injured. Current members of *Ansar al-Shari'a* based in Tunisia, previously convicted in Italy for terrorism offences, are believed to maintain contacts with jihadist networks in Libya and Syria, as well as possibly back in Italy.



Figure 6
Number of suspects arrested for religiously inspired terrorism in EU Member States in 2013



ETHNO-NATIONALIST AND SEPARATIST TERRORISM

- ➔ 3 high-ranking PKK members killed in the EU
- ➔ Ethno-nationalist and separatist terrorist attacks decreased significantly from 167 in 2012 to 84 in 2013
- ➔ 180 persons arrested for offences related to ethno-nationalist and separatist terrorism in EU Member States
- ➔ Threat from Dissident Republican groups remains
- ➔ ETA continues to observe ceasefire but maintains arms caches

3 ETHNO-NATIONALIST AND SEPARATIST TERRORISM

Dissident Republican groups

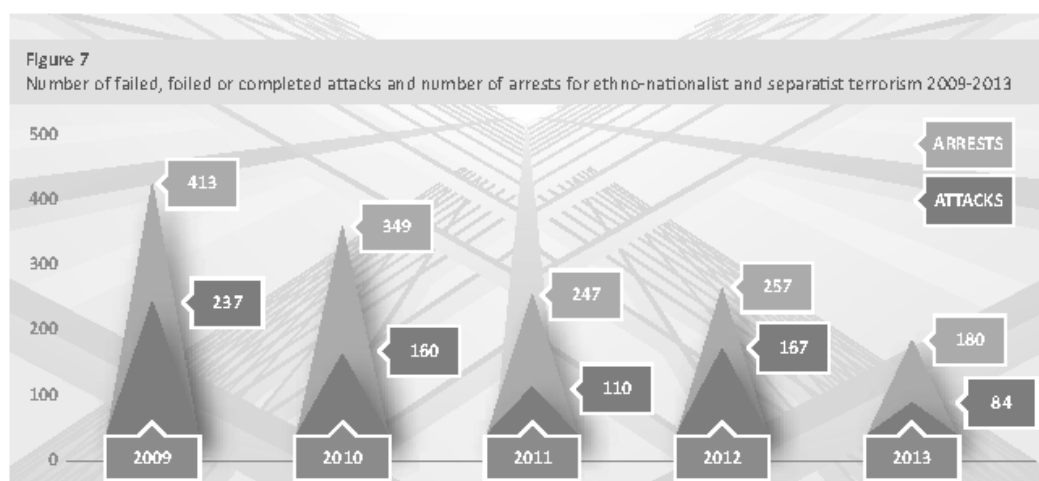
Despite a reduction in the overall number of attacks since 2010, greater sophistication, incremental learning and lethal intent among Dissident Republican (DR) groups in Northern Ireland (UK) have been evident. The main groups of concern in 2013 were the 'New IRA' (which formed in 2012 following a merger of the Real IRA, vigilante group Republican Action Against Drugs (RAAD) and a number of unaffiliated DRs); *Óglaigh nár h-Éireann* (ONH, Warriors of Ireland); and the Continuity IRA (CIRA).

Despite its small size, ONH poses a serious threat. The group has shown the capability, willingness and intent to kill members of the security forces in Northern Ireland, as demonstrated by several attributable incidents. On 24 November 2013, for example, a viable improvised explosive

device (IED) was placed in a hijacked car and the driver ordered to transport it to Belfast city centre.

The security forces remain the primary target for DR groups. Prison officers and military personnel are also considered legitimate targets. On 8 November 2013, an under-vehicle improvised explosive device (UVIED) was placed under the private car of a former police officer in Belfast.

DR groups are assessed as focusing their activities in Northern Ireland, but some members may also aspire to conduct attacks in other parts of the UK. In the Republic of Ireland, they are actively involved in fundraising, training, engineering IEDs, procurement, storage and, occasionally, using it as a launch base for attacks in neighbouring Northern Ireland.



Euskadi ta Askatasuna (ETA) and Resistència Galega

Euskadi ta Askatasuna (ETA, Basque Fatherland and Liberty) carried out no terrorist attacks in 2013. The 'definitive ceasefire', proclaimed by the group on 20 October 2011, continued to be observed.

The street violence attributed to juvenile groups of supporters and sympathisers of SEGI ('follow')²⁷ decreased to very low levels in 2013. Actions were mainly limited to criminal damage and propaganda for ETA members. At least two railway sabotage operations were perpetrated by operational groups (*Taldea Y*) in April and November in the Basque country. Leaflets and a banner carrying a text in solidarity with ETA prisoners claimed responsibility for the actions.

France continued to be used by ETA to store equipment in caches, including a significant proportion of the group's weaponry, explosive precursors and vehicle number plates illegally obtained in the past. Such equipment might be used for a potential resumption of terrorist actions. Six alleged ETA members, reportedly logistical operatives, were arrested in May 2013 in France.

ETA issued six communiqués in 2013. In these messages, the group stressed its commitment to a negotiated peace process. However, the group did not categorically distance itself from its violent past, nor did it declare its dissolution. Some individuals linked to the group disagreed with this peace process and expressed their readiness to resume terrorist activity.

In late 2013, *Herrira* ('towards the people'),²⁸ an association supporting ETA prisoners, was banned and dismantled. Eighteen members were arrested.

The number of attacks attributed to *Resistència Galega* decreased in 2013 compared to previous years. The group targeted bank premises and governmental infrastructure, causing material damage. One member was arrested in 2013 and tried. The Spanish National Court ruled that *Resistència Galega* was a terrorist group aiming at a change of the constitutional order.

²⁷ SEGI is a banned youth organisation associated with ETA, responsible for street violence (or low intensity terrorism). The attacks, which in the past included the use of improvised explosives devices (IEDs) and improvised incendiary devices (IIDs), were executed by SEGI groups known as *Taldea Y*. ETA is responsible for the command and control of SEGI and other organisations.

²⁸ Created in February 2012, *Herrira* substituted the former *Gestora Pro Amnistía and Askatasuna*.

French separatist groups

In comparison to previous years, 2013 saw a significant decrease in the number of attacks attributed to Corsican separatist movements. However, the two most active groups, the *Front de Libération Nationale de la Corse* (FLNC, National Liberation Front of Corsica) and the *FLNC du 22 Octobre* (FLNC of 22 October), continue to demonstrate the capability and intent to carry out terrorist acts.

The FLNC traditionally targets not only police and gendarmerie, public buildings and state institutions, but also private properties and restaurants. On 5 December 2013, after five of its members were arrested, the group carried out two simultaneous rocket attacks against gendarmerie offices in Bastia and Ajaccio.

In December 2013, two attacks were claimed by the *Armée Révolutionnaire Bretonne* (ARB, Breton Revolutionary Army). This group sees itself in the tradition of the *Front de Libération de la Bretagne-Armée Républicaine Bretonne* (FLB-ARB, Liberation Front of Brittany-Breton Republican Army), a terrorist organisation created in 1963 that called for the independence of Brittany.

The year 2013 also witnessed the emergence of a new French separatist terrorist group, the *Front de Libération Nationale de Provence* (FLNP, National Liberation Front of Provence). The group was responsible for three attacks against real estate agencies and a bank in the Var department, in which there were no casualties.

Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)

In 2013 the *Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan* (PKK, Kurdistan Workers' Party) carried out no terrorist attacks in the European Union (EU). Similar to previous years, the group's EU-based activities were mainly restricted to fundraising, propaganda, procurement and logistics, recruitment and training.

On 9 January 2013, three Kurdish women were murdered in the Kurdish Institute of Paris (France). Two of the victims were senior members of the PKK's European structures and were actively involved in the financing of the organisation's activities. Although a 30-year-old ethnic Kurd was arrested in Paris after the incident, at the time of writing the motivation for the attack had not been established.

Law enforcement measures against PKK structures in the EU targeted its financial apparatus and its main propaganda outlets. In February 2013, 17 Kurds were arrested in south-western France in a counter-terrorism investigation linked to extortion for the purpose of raising funds for the PKK. In the same operation, six people were detained in Spain. The individuals arrested in the French cities of Bordeaux and Toulouse were suspected of being senior figures within the regional structure of the organisation. Weapons and EUR 28 000 in cash were seized in raids in the Spanish cities of Madrid, Barcelona and Murcia.





It has been suggested that the PKK coordinates its training activities in Europe mainly through the Belgian-based Mesopotamia Social Sciences Research Academy. Trainees reportedly go on to join the PKK's armed wing, the *Hêzên Parastina Gelê* (HPG, People's Defence Forces), which operates from camps in northern Iraq.

In 2013 a Danish court fined Mesopotamia Broadcasts — a company which operated and controlled television channels Roj TV, MMC and Nuce TV — after ruling that it received financial support from the PKK. The company was convicted of promoting terrorism and consequently stripped of its broadcasting rights.²⁹

The PKK and the Turkish government reached a partial peace agreement in 2013. A significant decrease in terrorist attacks in Turkey was observed. However, the core military wing of the group still operates from the Qandil mountains in northern Iraq, which is also the base of the recently reshuffled leadership. The PKK carried out a limited number of attacks, mostly targeting military convoys in south-eastern Turkey.

Turkish reporting suggests that the PKK imposes a levy on drug traffickers, including at the Turkish borders, as part of the process of transferring drugs into European markets. Furthermore, it allegedly provides protection and mediation services for internal disputes between drug traffickers.

²⁹ See 1.3 Convictions and Penalties.

The PKK and its Syrian equivalent, the *Partiya Yekîtiya Demokrat* (PYD, Democratic Union Party), were involved in the Syrian conflict in 2013. Clashes with jihadist rebel groups, especially *Jabhat al-Nusra* ('support front'), were largely restricted to the north-eastern region, the main area of Kurdish settlement in Syria.

Liberation Tigers of Eelam (LTTE)

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is considered to have been inactive since it was militarily defeated in Sri Lanka in 2009. However, LTTE networks remain in numerous countries, and continue to attempt to rebuild their structures and operating capabilities, especially via fundraising and money laundering.

In Switzerland, for instance, police continued to investigate the activities of a number of former LTTE members. The investigation focused primarily on operations aimed at channelling funds collected on Swiss territory to Sri Lanka.

Figure 8
 Number of failed or completed attacks and number of suspects arrested for ethno-nationalist and separatist terrorism in EU Member States in 2013



LEFT-WING AND ANARCHIST TERRORISM

- ➔ 2 people killed by left-wing or anarchist terrorists in Greece
- ➔ Terrorist attacks increased to 24 in 2013 after a 2012 low
- ➔ Decrease in low-scale violence and increasingly elaborate terrorist attacks
- ➔ 49 individuals arrested in 6 EU Member States