



Protection of Public Spaces

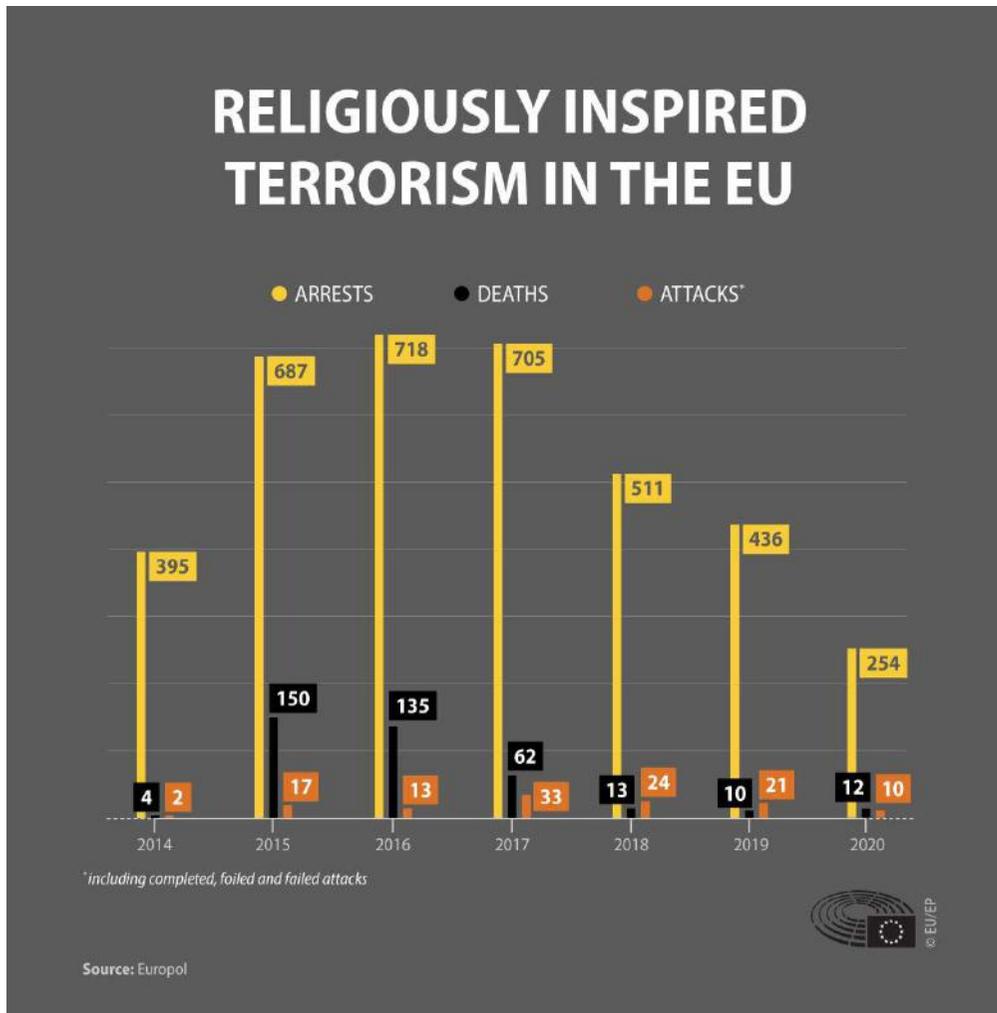
EU framework

DG Home/ Counter-Terrorism Unit

Prevent PCP Horizon2020 project, open market meeting, 19 January 2022

Terrorist threat picture

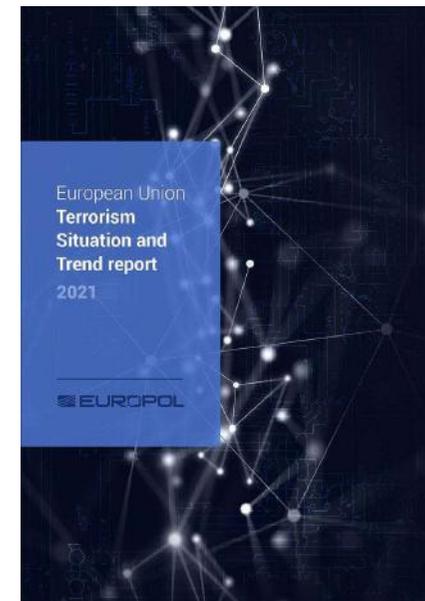
Terrorism in the EU: threat picture



	2017	2018	2019	2020
Completed attack	10	7	3	10
Failed plot	12	1	4	0
Foiled plot	11	16	14	4
Total	33	24	21	14

Number of completed, failed and foiled jihadist terror attacks in the EU (2017-2020)

Source: Europol 2021



Terrorism in the EU: threat picture

Key findings:

- **The most frequent type of jihadism-inspired attacks in the EU, CH and the UK was assaults in public spaces targeting civilians.**
- **Lone actor attacks** are predominant with attackers/home-grown terrorists inspired by international terrorist organisations or terrorist content online without any or only marginal links to other terrorist organisations.
- Perpetrators mainly use **“low cost, low tech” modi operandi**: unsophisticated weapons, bladed or stabbing weapons or small firearms, IED.
- Capability of DAESH and AQ terrorist groups to direct attacks has diminished.
- **Online radicalization and jihadist propaganda**: an increasing threat.



Terrorism in the EU: threat picture

Terrorist threat in the near future:

- The increasing **release from prison** of a significant number of individuals convicted of terrorism or terrorism related offences, and the release of other **radicalised inmates** will continue to contribute to the terrorist threat
- The **returned FTFs** and their family members + situation in the camps and the detention centres in Northern Syria could pose significant challenges
- The **recent developments in Afghanistan** are also an EU concern and may have an impact on the European internal security
- Activities from **violent extremism** are on the rise
- The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its impact should be closely monitored
- Emerging threats: CBRN, misuse of drones and new technologies

EU framework on the protection of public spaces

2017 Action Plan to support the Protection of Public Spaces

The Action Plan aims at supporting Member States through:

- 1) fostering the exchange of best practice
- 2) establishing and facilitating networks and providing guidance material
- 3) involving stakeholders, including local actors and the private sector
- 4) dedicated funding

Accompanied by the 2019 COM Staff Working document on good practices to support the protection of public spaces through:

- 1) Assessment and planning
- 2) Awareness and training
- 3) Physical protection
- 4) Cooperation

EU Security Union Strategy

2020-2025



EU Counter-Terrorism Agenda



Council Conclusions on the Protection of Public Spaces

- Link:
<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9545-2021-INIT/en/pdf>



What we propose

To provide EU added-value to enhance security in public spaces

A large toolbox to support Member States

- **Platforms** (Urban Partnership on Security in Public Spaces) and **forum** (EU Forum on the Protection of Public Spaces) for the exchange of best practice, lessons learnt, and networking between Member States
- **EU guidance, research work and tools (COM Joint Research Centre)** to provide technical guidance for Member States, local authorities and private operators
- **EU Protective Security Advisors programme:** a pool of EU trained experts to advise on vulnerabilities of public spaces
- **Dedicated funding:** EU funded projects (ISF-P, research), law enforcement networks, studies...
- **Transport security:** close cooperation with DG MOVE (LANDSEC expert group and its new RAILSEC working party, new Background check regime in civil aviation)

Ongoing actions for the protection of public spaces

- To promote **Security by design** solutions: an architectural book on security by design (Q1 2022).
- To propose an **EU Pledge on Urban Security and Resilience** through which the Commission will facilitate the sharing of good practices and support projects led by cities and peer-to-peer advisory efforts.
- To explore the possibility of setting minimum obligations for operators in charge of guaranteeing the security of public spaces.
- To support MS' efforts to enhance the **physical protection of places of worship**.
- **To continue to dedicate funding** under the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. Next ISF-P protect call in 2022.

The role of new technologies for the protection of public spaces

- To **counter the misuse of drones to target public spaces**:
 - European Programme for counter-UAS systems testing.
 - [Courageous EU-funded project](#) (€ 3.5 million under the 2020 ISF-Police Protect call) aims to ensure a better common understanding of counter-UAS technologies throughout Europe (UAS threat scenarios, performance requirements, standardized C-UAS testing methodology..)
 - Forthcoming EU handbook for securing cities from non-cooperative drones.
- Legislative initiative (DG CNECT) for a Regulation on laying down harmonised rules on **Artificial Intelligence** (Artificial Intelligence Act)

Improving early detection capacity for the protection of public spaces

- **Ongoing technical working group (launched in Dec 2020) aiming to improve the efficacy of threat detection equipment** used in public spaces outside of aviation.
- **CBRN trials in public spaces** involving law enforcement authorities and networks.
- To facilitate the effective implementation of the new rules on **explosive precursors** (Regulation (EU) 2019/1148).
- Study completed on the feasibility to restrict access to certain dangerous **chemicals**: follow-up under discussion with the CBRN Security Advisory Group and MS experts.

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