

CONFERENCE
The external dimension of the EU counter-terrorism policy

22 February 2013
Belgium

Since the events of 9/11 and, even more strategically, in the aftermath of the Madrid and London attacks of 2004 and 2005, respectively, the EU has developed a global strategy and action against terrorism. Indeed in the past ten years the fight against terrorism has been the propeller toward the adoption of a number of measures stemming from different fields of EU competence. Other than internal measures, the EU has also carried out a number of initiatives pertaining to counter-terrorism on the international pane; these vary from technical assistance within the framework of Development and Cooperation agreements to the controversial PNR Agreement with the US. Moreover, the EU is also involved in multilateral *fora*, such as the UN, dealing with the issue. However, while the external action of the EU in countering-terrorism appears justified under the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity, its development still leaves some questions unanswered.

The conference “The external dimension of the EU Counter-terrorism Policy” organised by the Centre for the Law of EU External Relation (CLEER) and the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague invites academics, legal and policy experts, policy makers, and stakeholders to discuss some ten years of EU external action in countering terrorism. The one day conference will be divided in four main themes, each aiming to address aspects of the EU counter-terrorism policy that still pose unanswered questions. At the institutional level these questions relate to the horizontal division of competences and the choice of the appropriate legal basis. From a substantive perspective, these questions pertain not only to geographical differentiation of EU initiatives and the need of coordination with member States in the execution of the different actions, but also to the externalisation of AFSJ policies such as police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters. Lastly, universal issues such as the respect for the rule of law and human rights still appear to be unresolved and will also be discussed.

The conference will take place on the 22nd of February at the University Foundation in Brussels. Attendance is free, but registration is required. To register please visit : <http://www.asser.nl/onlineforms/Brussels2013.aspx>

Programme

08.45 – 09.15 Registration

09.15 – 09.30 Word of Welcome

09.30 – 10.00 **Keynote speech:** The emergence of the EU as a global actor in the fight against terrorism. Policy strategies and institutional challenges, *Prof. Jörg Monar, university of Sussex and College of Europe, Bruges (confirmed)*

Panel One

An institutional challenge: the development and implementation of a single external policy

Chair: Claudio Matera (T.M.C. Asser Instituut and ICCT – The Hague)

10.00 – 10.15 The development of a single counter terrorism policy in the external action of the EU: the role of the Council, *Jenö Czuczai, College of Europe (Bruges) and Legal Service of the Council of the EU*

10.15 – 10.30 The role of DG Home in synergizing internal and external aspects of the EU counter-terrorism policy and actions, *Ms. Marie-Ange Balbinot, Head of Sector, Unit : Fight against terrorism*

10.30 – 10.45 The role of the Counter-terrorism coordinator and the different ambits of EU external relations, *Mr. O. Russ, Office of the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (confirmed)*

10.45 – 11.00 More than an implementing agency: The role of the EEAS in the development and execution of the EU's agenda to counter-terrorism globally, *Mr. Tim Jones, EEAS, MD VI, Global and multilateral issues (confirmed)*

11.00 – 11.30 Debate

11.30 – 11.45 Coffee/Tea

Panel Two

Police and judicial cooperation in the external dimension of the fight against terrorism

Chair: Dr. E. Herlin – Karnell (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, CLEER) *(confirmed)*

11.45 – 12.00 The External dimension of EU Counter-terrorism policy in the fields of Police cooperation and Criminal law, *Speaker TBA*

12.00 – 12.15 The fight against terrorism and the role of EUROJUST: cooperation with third countries, *Ms. Michèle Coninx (President of Eurojust and Head of Counter-terrorism) (confirmed)*

12.15 – 12.30 The fight against terrorism and the role of Europol: cooperation with third countries, *Mr Sean Griffin (Counter-Terrorism Unit EUROPOL) (confirmed)*

12.30 – 13.00 Debate

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

Panel Three

EU action in countering-terrorism caught between the rule of law and top secret intelligence

Chair: Prof. Steven Blockmans (CEPS/UvA, CLEER)

14.00 – 14.15 Towards a coherent & consistent approach to countering terrorism in the EU? The example of the TEU/TFEU relationship, *Prof. Christophe Hillion (Universities Leiden and Stockholm, SIEPS CLEER)*

14.15 – 14.30 Top Secret Intelligence and the fight against terrorism beyond the EU: challenges of conducting a transparent action by accountable institutions, *Prof. Deirdre Curtin (University of Amsterdam)*

14.30 – 14.45 The protection of fundamental rights and the external dimension of the EU's fight against terrorism: current and future challenges ahead of the of the EU accession to the ECHR, *Dr. Maria O'Neill, Senior lecturer at Abertay University, UK*

15.00 – 15.30 Debate

15.30 – 15.45 Coffee/Tea

Panel Four

Geographical strategies within the EU's counter-terrorism action

Chair: Prof. Marieke de Goede (University of Amsterdam)

15.45 – 16.00 EU-USA cooperation in the fight against terrorism, *US mission to the EU, Tom Rogan, Senior Consular Representative, United States Mission to the European Union*

16.00 – 16.15 Counter-terrorism cooperation with the ASEAN countries, *Prof. Constance Chevallier-Govers, University of Grenoble*

16.15 – 16.30 Counter-terrorism cooperation in the Sahel region, *Mr Pierre-Christophe Chatzisavas, Desk Officer for the Sahel EEAS*

16.30 – 16.50 Debate

16.50 – 17.00 Closing remarks