The external dimension of the EU counter-terrorism policy

22 February 2013
Brussels, 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 ICCT-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 conference will be divided in three main parts, 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

Speakers include:
Prof. Jörg Monar -University of Sussex and College of Europe; Michèle Coninsx -President of Eurojust; Mr. Oliver Russ -Office of the EU Counter terrorism Coordinator; Prof. Ramses A. Wessel -University of Twente and CLEER, Dr. Cian Murphy -King’s College London; Dr. Constance-Chevallier-Govers - University of Grenoble; Mr Pierre-Christophe Chatzisavas, Desk Officer for the Sahel-EEAS
Programme
09.00 – 09.30: Registration
09.30 – 09.45: Welcoming
09.45 – 10.15: Keynote speech

Panel One
Scattered among different portfolios: the development of a single EU policy on counter-terrorism?
10.15 – 10.35: The Development of a Global Agenda for countering terrorism: political ambitions and legal constraints for the EU as a global security actor
10.35 – 10.55: The role of the Counter-terrorism coordinator and the different ambiets of EU External Relations
10.55 – 11.15: Towards a coherent & consistent approach to countering terrorism in the EU? The example of the TEU/TFEU relationship
11.15 – 11.30: Debate
11.30 – 11.45: Coffee/Tea

Panel Two
Geographical strategies in the counter-terrorism strategy of the EU
11.45 – 12.05: The EU-USA relations and the common fight against terrorism
12.05 – 12.20: Counter-terrorism cooperation with the ASEAN countries
12.20 – 12.40: Counter-terrorism cooperation in the Sahel
12.40 – 13.00: Debate
13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

Part three
New developments and old challenges for the EU counter-terrorism strategy
14.00 – 14.20: Transversal instruments and the fight against terrorism: PNR SWIFT and Criminal law instruments
14.20 – 14.40: The fight against terrorism and the role of EUROJUST: cooperation with third countries
14.40 – 15.00: The Fight against terrorism and the role of Europol: cooperation with third countries
15.00 – 15.15: Debate
15.15 – 15.30 Coffee/Tea

Closing Session
The EU action in countering terrorism caught between the rule of law and top secret intelligence
15.30 -15.50: Top Secret Intelligence and the fight against terrorism: the EU–UN relations
15.50 - 16.10: Human rights protection and the fight against terrorism
16.10 -16.30: Debate