

## **European Union Internal security – setting up security conditions against threats for the coming years**

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**Abstract:** This article presents the EU's proposals on the security of the Union for 2020-2025, focusing on priority fields where the EU can add value to help state members strengthen the security of all citizens living in Europe. From the fight against terrorism and organized crime to the prevention and detection of hybrid threats, including improving the resilience of our critical infrastructures and promoting cyber security, as well as research and innovation, the strategy defines the tools and measures to be implemented over the next five years to guarantee security in our physical and digital environment. Security is a transversal issue that covers almost all fields of society and covers a multitude of fields of action. With the new EU security strategy, all the necessary connections are made to build a true security ecosystem, to move beyond the false dichotomy between the online and offline worlds, between the digital and the physical worlds and between security concerns and threats. internal and external. No security issue should be neglected: from critical infrastructure protection to the fight against cybercrime, including the fight against hybrid threats. This strategy will provide a comprehensive framework for security policies, which must always be fully based on common values.

**Key words:** national security, security policy, cyber security, research, innovation.

**JEL Classification:** H56.

### **1. Introduction**

The concept of internal security should be understood as an ample and comprehensive concept that spans several sectors to address these serious threats, as well as threats that have a direct impact on life, security and property. Cooperation between police, border control, judicial authorities and other services, for example in the health, social and civil protection sectors, is essential. The EU's internal security strategy must exploit the potential synergies that exist in the areas of police cooperation, integrated border management and criminal justice systems. In fact, these fields of activity in the European area of freedom, justice and security are inseparable: the internal security strategy must ensure that they complement and reinforce each other.

Europe needs to strengthen a security model based of the Union principles and values: respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, democracy, dialogue, tolerance, transparency and solidarity. The quality of our democracy and public confidence in the Union will largely depend on our

ability to ensure security and stability in Europe and the work we do with our neighbors and partners to deal with the roots of the EU's internal security problems.

The internal security strategy has been adopted to help Europe move forward; brings together existing activities and defines the principles and guidelines for action that must be taken. It is created to prevent crime and strengthen the capacity to provide an appropriate and timely response to natural or man-made disasters through the development and management of appropriate tools.

## **2. Research Methodology**

The methodology clearly describes the specific design of the study and provides a clear and concise description of the objectives. This provides enough information for an external scientist to reproduce the study. The observational study was used, which purpose was to demonstrate the EU's internal security strategy's strong desire to continue advancing in the field of justice, freedom and security through a European security model to address the following challenges: protecting rights and freedoms; improving cooperation and solidarity between Member States; address the causes of insecurity and not just its effects; involve all sectors (political, economic, social, etc.) that have a public protection function; to inform citizens about security policies; and, finally, to recognize the interdependence between internal security and external security by developing a "comprehensive security" approach for third countries. It is therefore essential that the internal security strategy be able to adapt, both to the needs of citizens and to the global challenges and dynamics of the 21st century. The main focus of this academic research paper is to develop a new idea and such research paper requires the consultation of the specific literature. This paper gives readers easy access to research on the chosen topic, by selecting high quality articles or studies that are relevant, significant, important and valid and which are summaries in one complete report (Andrei, Chivu, Ioan-Franc, Sima, 2006)

## **3. RESULTS**

### **Challenges and threats in the field of internal security**

The main common challenges and threats for the coming years in the field of internal security are:

- Serious organized crime, in all its forms and especially: assistance for uneven entry and stay and various forms and consequences of trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking, counterfeiting, intra-community fraud of operators and excise fraud, organized crime against property, cybercrime, arms trafficking and corruption. Special attention should be paid to any activity related to money laundering and crime incomes reinvestment, which aims in particular at infiltrating the legal economy;
- Terrorism, radicalization, terrorist recruitment and terrorist financing: terrorism in all its forms remains a major threat, constantly evolving for the EU's internal security. Particular attention should be paid to the problem of foreign fighters, their return to their country of origin and solitary actors, which pose a very serious, direct and unprecedented threat to EU security, as well as to updating the various channels of terrorist financing. This will require an in-depth cooperation with third countries and strategic partners such as Interpol, a renewed interest in preventing and combating radicalization leading to violent extremism, including aimed measures to discourage anyone from participating in terrorist acts and collaboration aimed at limiting access to online content that promotes radicalization leading to terrorism and its impact;

- Cybercrime and the need for cyber security of citizens, businesses and public institutions are issues that need to be approached, given the importance of the Internet as a fundamental tool for EU growth, while ensuring an open and free internet based on the model of stakeholders and preventing its illegal exploitation. Special attention should be paid to the online sexual exploitation of children, cyberattacks and online card payment fraud;
- Threats and challenges resulting from the use of new technologies: the failures of major information and communication technologies can create problems in terms of security and safety. The possibility of accessing advanced technological and communication means also offers the possibility for organized criminal groups to target individuals and businesses;
- New and emerging threats need to be precisely defined and closely monitored, taking an information-based approach;
- Natural and man-made crises and disasters can have major repercussions on the EU's internal security.

Given the responsibilities of being a state member, it is necessary to ensure the EU's resilience to such crises and disasters, and the capacity to respond to, deal with and reduce them must be strengthened.

Strengthens a comprehensive and coherent approach, both horizontally (law enforcement, integrated border management services, judicial, customs, civil protection, administrative and other competent authorities, universities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector), and vertically (international and EU cooperation, regional policies, member states' policies at national, regional and local level), in Supporting the following:

- a) the development of a European security model, which will actively contribute to creating favorable security conditions in the Union and its member states;
- b) a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and integrated approach containing actions in the field of law enforcement, judicial cooperation, migration, border management, customs and civil protection, the role and actions of the administrative procedures of the authorities being strengthened as part of this approach;
- c) information-based approach that identifies and tracks new and emerging threats, based on threat assessments and political cycle methodology;
- d) access, availability and exchange of information in the context of preventing and combating transnational crime and terrorism. The European PNR system is one of the important tools in this field, as is the implementation of the Prüm decision. The interoperability of the various systems should be ensured, by improving and simplifying existing instruments, in order to make the exchange of information more efficient and proportionate and to allow, later, the organization of "joint operations and collecting samples for prosecution". The possibility of establishing a European Police Registry Indexing System (EPRIS) should be explored. A framework is needed which, while respecting fundamental rights, ensures rapid cooperation between investigating and prosecuting authorities with regard to inter-jurisdictional access to electronic evidence held by law enforcement actors;
- e) prevention and anticipation of criminal acts and terrorist attacks; To achieve this, a proactive and intelligence-based approach must be implemented to ensure the timely exchange of information and information in criminal matters and the collection of evidence for prosecution, including through financial investigations. In addition to police and criminal justice authorities, national and local

administrative authorities also have a role to play in crime prevention. A proactive, comprehensive and integrated approach, including increased participation of civil society, ONG and educational institutions, would help, for example, to prevent and combat radicalization and recruitment of terrorists;

- f) the effective use of new technologies, in particular information and communication technologies and criminal technologies, to prevent and combat threats to the EU's internal security and to protect fundamental rights. This involves cooperation between law enforcement and the private sector, in particular the research and development sector, in particular in order to achieve a higher technological autonomy. The EU should continue to develop an industrial political security closely linked to the internal security strategy;
- g) to stimulate and improve the coordination of investigations and prosecutions in the Member States, including financial investigations targeting to confiscate assets of criminal origin, as well as the efficient use of joint investigation teams and related procedures mutual legal assistance and mutual recognition. Eurojust and Europol should continue to play a very important role in supporting the EU in this regard. Their efforts should be complemented by measures taken by other agencies, in particular CEPOL and Frontex;
- h) to intensify operational cooperation inter alia, intelligence-led operations at EU and regional level, with the increased participation of Member States, as well as by encouraging joint investigation teams and joint patrols;
- i) ensure coherence between the internal security strategy and the various EU internal security strategies, such as maritime security, information management strategy, cyber security strategy, EU drug strategy, EU strategy to combat radicalization and terrorist recruitment; and customs risk management strategy;
- j) move towards a reinforced border management, which is one of the directions of the EU's internal security strategy, in line with the priorities defined in the EU's border management policy and with the support of the most advanced technologies. The concept of integrated EU border management should be updated in the light of recent trends in EU border management policy and legislation in this area, with full respect for the right to free movement of persons provided in the current legal framework. This will make an important contribution to various EU policies and interests, such as internal security, migration management and international relations;
- k) the use of disaster management tools and capabilities implemented under the old internal security strategy to further improve Europe's resilience to crises and disasters;
- l) consolidating and implementing the current EU legal and political framework on trafficking in human beings.

### **Making a connection between internal and external security**

The Internal Security Strategy for the EU is a joint action program in which closer connections should be established between internal security and external security and the promotion of internal security, cooperation with third countries and partners such as Interpol. As the interdependence between internal security and external security becomes increasingly important, the EU's renewed internal security strategy

should take into account the external security dimension and, conversely, the EU's external and development policies. The Union should take into account the relevant principles of the EU's internal security strategy.

Internal security should be taken more systematically into account in EU external policies and should be ensured that high consistency is ensured in all external policies with regard to security issues. Migration and refugee policies and cooperation with third countries aimed at combating criminal activities, in particular illegal immigration networks and trafficking in human beings, should be considered as an integral part of the Union's external and development policies. Special attention should be paid in establishing an effective common return policy and ensuring compliance with the readmission obligations contained in agreements with third countries;

In the context of relations with third countries, cooperation should be strengthened, especially at operational level, on current and future priorities of the EU policy cycle, as well as on cooperation to combat radicalization and the recruitment of terrorists and address the problem, of foreign fighters and their return to their countries of origin. The "give more to receive more" approach should be applied more systematically in relations with third countries. In order to better address the perception of marginalization and discrimination, which could contribute to radicalization, efforts should be made to make EU policies, strategies and objectives better known to third countries, including development aid and humanitarian aid. The European External Action Service is called upon to play an important role in ensuring the recognition and exploitation of the links between internal security and external security;

In developing external relations strategies, due attention should be given to the principles underlying the EU's internal security strategy;

If all actors involved in internal and external security need to cooperate to meet the challenges mentioned above, there is a need to strengthen security coordination, especially between EU delegations and member states' embassies. Particular attention should be paid to better use of EU agencies and to encourage their interaction, as well as better use of their role in external relations. Specific efforts should be made to improve the coherence of actions undertaken in civilian missions with security mandates, EC instruments and member states' bilateral initiatives. The principles set out in the roadmap for strengthening the links between the actors of the common security and defense policy and the area of freedom, security and justice must be fully implemented and exploited.

### **The respect of the fundamental rights of EU citizens**

The EU's internal security strategy should enable the EU to ensure the protection of its citizens and to fully respect the rights and freedoms of its citizens and of those who live, remain and / or remain there. It will support the promotion of social inclusion and social cohesion, namely living together in an area of freedom and security, while respecting the EU's fundamental values and rights, by seeking to prevent criminal activities. Respect for fundamental rights in the planning and implementation of security policies and actions must be seen as means of ensuring proportionality and as a tool for gaining the trust and participation of citizens. Social integration and inclusion should be promoted by improving knowledge of and acceptance of the EU's fundamental values and rights. For this purpose, the EU should consider stepping up targeted actions aimed at raising public awareness and promoting respect for fundamental rights and values, in particular by assessing the need to develop an EU communication strategy. In this context, the EU institutions and the member states are encouraged to cooperate, with the assistance of the EU Agency

for Fundamental Rights, to continue to ensure that fundamental rights guarantees are incorporated into legislation as well as into the Union's operational work on internal security.

### **Conclusion**

The EU's renewed internal security strategy should give priority to the systematic, coherent and effective implementation, enforcement and consolidation of existing legislation, actions and instruments. More focus should be placed on strengthening operational cooperation. The Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security will play an important role in implementing and monitoring this strategy, with a particular focus on facilitating operational cooperation between member states. The Committee will have to present an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council on the actions taken under the EU's internal security strategy. This report should ensure that the results are monitored and evaluated and provide up-to-date information on measures taken to strengthen internal security within the Union. Relying on these reports, the Council will examine what actions, if any, need to be taken to achieve the objectives of the EU's internal security strategy. This strategy defines four strategic priorities for action at EU level:

- a security environment resilient to the future;
- managing evolving threats;
- protecting Europeans against terrorism and organized crime;
- a strong European security ecosystem.

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