

Translated from French

Sixth Committee

Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

Implementation of paragraphs 11, 13 and 14 of General Assembly resolution 77/108 of 7 December 2022

Input of the Kingdom of Belgium

In response to the note verbale of the Secretary-General dated 13 February 2024 concerning the consideration of measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, the Kingdom of Belgium has the honour to convey the following information:

A. Serious violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic missions and consular posts in Belgium

The list below shows the incidents reported to the Protocol Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where foreign diplomatic missions and consular posts were targeted, as well as the measures taken in response to those incidents. To put this list into perspective, Belgium wishes to highlight that there are no fewer than 300 accredited diplomatic missions and consular posts in its territory, including the permanent missions to international organizations that are headquartered in Belgium.

In **2022**, the following incidents were reported:

- 13.03.2022 - Austria - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Burglary at a diplomat's residence
- 19.03.2022 - Ireland - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Burglary at the official residence
- 24–26.03.2022 - Greece - Embassy - Harassment and threats against Embassy staff by an individual
- 31.03.2022 - Togo - Embassy - Theft of the vehicle of a member of the diplomatic mission
- 15.04.2022 - Armenia - Embassy - Attempted telephone scam
- 01.05.2022 - Japan - Mission to the European Union - Acts of vandalism by demonstrators against cars belonging to the delegation of the Minister of the Interior in Brussels
- 06.05.2022 - Iran - Embassy - Emails containing threats
- 09.05.2022 - Morocco - Embassy - Illegal entry into the Embassy. The individual broke a window and threatened the mission and its staff
- 14.05.2022 - Russia - Embassy - Act of vandalism in front of the premises of the Russian consulate
- Denmark - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Suspicious calls received by a diplomat at the mission from a person allegedly from the federal police
- 18.05.2022 - Turkey - Mission to the European Union - Fraudulent call received by the

Ambassador from a person demanding money

- 20.05.2022 - Czech Republic - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Diplomat fell victim to a telephone scam
- 30.05.2022 - South Korea - Embassy - Theft of a diplomat's vehicle
- 12.06.2022 - Croatia - Embassy - Burglary at the official residence Theft of an official vehicle and personal effects
- 13.06.2022 - Zimbabwe - Embassy - Padlocks and chains preventing entry into the Embassy were placed by individuals at night. Damage to an embassy vehicle
- 16.05.2022 - Mozambique - Embassy - Ambassador fell victim to a telephone scam
- 28.06.2022 - Turkey - Embassy - Threatening emails received by several diplomatic missions accredited to Baku. Turkish citizens and interests were targeted
- 30.06/05.07.2022 - Brazil - Embassy - Hacked email account. Unauthorized emails were sent to diplomatic missions via this account.
- 09.07.2022 - Russia - Embassy - Email containing death threats and insults against members of the mission sent to the Embassy
- 26.07.2022 - Poland - Embassy - Act of vandalism
- 27.07.2022 - Ukraine - Mission to the European Union - An individual attempted to take photos of participants at a working meeting between a minister and international partners
- 02.08.2022 - Mali - Embassy – Presence of squatters in the official residence while construction under way. The police intervened and two of the three squatters left the premises
- 11.08.2022 - Cuba - Embassy - An individual harassed Embassy staff members in the street
- 13.08.2022 - Turkey - Mission to the European Union – Acts of vandalism of the façade of the mission's premises (PKK stickers)
- 16.08.2022 - Guinea - Embassy - Threats received by the Embassy. Call from a protest leader to disrupt Embassy operations
- 19–21.08.2022 - India - Embassy - Repeated thefts/burglaries in the building where a diplomat lives
- 23.08.2022 - Sri Lanka - Embassy - Ambassador fell victim to a telephone scam
- 27.08.2022 - Iran - Consulate - Act of vandalism against the consulate
- 29.08.2022 - Mali - Embassy - Squatters in the official residence under construction
- 02.09.2022 - Turkey - Embassy - Tags on the mission wall by 3 individuals
- 23.09.2022 - Iran - Embassy - 9 Molotov cocktails launched at the Embassy and two cars set on fire. Demonstration the next day (vandalism and stone-throwing)
- 26.09.2022 - China - Embassy - Demonstration (5–6 people) and throwing of objects
- 28.09.2022 - Turkey - Embassy - Letter insulting and threatening minorities and Turks
- 03.10.2022 - Thailand - Embassy - Theft from official vehicle, which was damaged
- 08.10.2022 - Japan - Mission to the European Union - Trespassing on the grounds of the Ambassador's residence
- 13.10.2022 - Iran - Embassy - Act of vandalism (of the gate)
- 06.09.2022 - China - Embassy - A drone flew over embassy territory

- 09.10.2022 - Syria - Mission to the European Union - Threatening parcels deposited at the Embassy of Jordan (targeting the Syrian mission to the European Union)
- 23.10.2022 - Iran - Embassy - Threats received by a diplomat by email
- 29.10.2022 - Austria - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Burglary at the residence of the Permanent Representative
- 03.11.2022 - Iran - Embassy – Act of vandalism of the wall of the Ambassador’s residence
- 29.10.2022–06.11.2022 - Iran - Embassy - Embassy doors vandalized
- 08.11.2022 - Iran - Embassy - Online smear campaign against the Embassy
- 27.11.2022 - Iran - Embassy - Vandalism of one of the Embassy doors
- 28.11.2022 - Morocco - Consulate - Acts of vandalism against the Moroccan consulate in Antwerp
- 17.12.2022 - Algeria - Embassy - Public insults against the Embassy by an individual

In **2023**, the following incidents were reported:

- 20.12.2022 - Argentina - Embassy - Trespassing on the grounds of the official residence
- 03.01.2023 - Afghanistan - Embassy - Acts of vandalism (posters stuck on the Embassy door)
- 06.02.2023 - Turkey - Mission to the European Union - Repeated suspicious activities by individuals in front of the Embassy
- 13.02.2023 - Turkey - Embassy - PKK stickers stuck on lampposts and buildings
- 13–15.02.2023 - Greece - Embassy - Harassment and threats against Embassy staff by an individual
- 16.02.2023 - Italy - Permanent Mission to the European Union – Act of vandalism of the walls of the mission
- 23.03.2023 - Norway - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Ambassador violently assaulted in Parc du Cinquanteaire
- 06.03.2023 - Syria - Mission to the European Union - Worrying email received (asking employees to leave the Embassy before it is too late)
- 18.03.2023 - Embassy - Qatar - Act of vandalism against official mission vehicle
- 23.03.23 - China - Embassy - Occupation of an official Embassy building by squatters
- 02.04.2023 - Embassy - Iran - Act of vandalism against the Embassy (paint thrown on the entrance gate)
- 05.04.2023 - Hungary - Embassy - Theft from the grounds of the Liszt Institute (Embassy cultural centre)
- 07.04.2023 - Bangladesh - Embassy - Trespassing on the Embassy premises
- 18.04.2023 - India - Embassy - Second attempt at illegal entry into the residence of the Deputy Head of the Embassy
- 19.04.2023 - Czech Republic - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Theft of the mobile phone of the director of the Office of the President of the Czech Republic
- 03.05.2023 - Poland - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Suspicious behaviour

towards the Permanent Representative by an individual

- 04.05.2023 - Democratic Republic of Congo - Embassy - Threats received by the Embassy email account
- 08.05.2023 - Peru - Embassy - A drone flew over the Embassy garden and stopped for a long time in front of one of the windows.
- 09.05.2023 - Russia - Embassy - Act of vandalism against the Embassy
- 11.05.2023 - Rwanda - Embassy - A group of 22 Congolese attempted to enter the Embassy (gate damaged)
- 12.05.2023 - Ethiopia - Embassy - Fraudulent call received by a diplomat
- 19.05.2023 - Syria - Mission to the European Union - Threatening email received by the mission
- 29.05.2023 - Italy - Permanent Mission to the European Union - A diplomat's vehicle disappeared between 29/05 and 01/05
- 16.06.2023 - Turkey - Mission to the European Union - Fraudulent call received by the Ambassador
- 01.07.2023 - Peru - Embassy - Burglary at a diplomat's residence
- 05.07.2023 - Sweden - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Act of vandalism of the window overlooking the entrance
- 09–11.07.2023 - Belarus - Embassy - Unknown caller informing that the Embassy would be set on fire
- 18.07.2023 - Djibouti - Embassy - Threats against the Ambassador
- 10.08.2023 - Austria - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Burglary at a diplomat's residence
- 14.08.2023 - Denmark - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Call for violence against the Danish and Swedish Embassies
- 16.08.2023 - Eritrea - Embassy - Call for violence against the Eritrean Embassy in Brussels
- 17.08.2023 - Switzerland - Embassy - An apparently unbalanced individual regularly harassed staff at the official residence and the Embassy
- 01.09.2023 - Ireland - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Two diplomats' spouses were violently assaulted
- 15.09.2023 - Cote d'Ivoire - Embassy - Attempted burglary at the home of a diplomat
- 19.09.2023 - Ecuador - Embassy - Burglary at the home of a diplomat (vehicle stolen then located, identity card stolen)
- 20.09.2023 - Tunisia - Embassy - Threats against the embassy
- 03.10.2023 - ACP - international organization - Occupation of an official building by squatters
- 05.10.2023 - Serbia - Embassy - Unknown person made serious threats to Embassy staff members
- 16.10.2023 - Peru - Embassy - Fraudulent call received by the Ambassador
- 03.11.2023 - Turkey - Embassy - Large poster signed by the DHCK left in front of the Embassy

- 08.11.2023 - Zambia - Embassy - Diplomat's laptop stolen and car damaged
- 16.11.2023 - Armenia - Embassy - Theft of a handbag containing diplomatic documents and passports from a car with a CD license plate
- 20.11.2023 - Philippines - Embassy - Theft from a diplomat's vehicle parked near the Embassy (several items stolen)

In the **first few months of 2024**, the following incidents were reported:

- 05.01.2024 - Tunisia - Embassy - Receipt of an anonymous envelope with a USB drive containing malware, which caused a short circuit
- 05.01.2024 - Poland - Mission to the European Union - Robbery and assault of the Ambassador
- 08.01.2024 and 10.01.2024 - Luxembourg - Embassy - Embassy's email address hacked
- 29.01.2024 - Poland - Mission to the European Union - Harassment of a diplomat in the street
- 16.02.2024 - India - Embassy - Physical assault on an Indian diplomat
- 17.02.2023 - Iran - Embassy - Security incident at the Embassy compound
- 27.02.2024 - Serbia - Mission to the European Union - Break-in and burglary at the Ambassador's unoccupied residence
- 27.02.2024 - South Africa - Actes of vandalism (posters) and smoke bombs
- 13.03.2024 - Sweden - Mission to NATO - Attempted burglary at the Ambassador's residence
- 16.03.2024 - Lebanon - Embassy - Burglary at a diplomat's apartment
- 20.03.2024 - Jordan - Embassy - Theft from a diplomat's car in Saint-Gilles
- 24–25.03.2024 - Turkey - Embassy - Threats on social media
- 25.03.2024 - Turkey - Embassy - Security incident involving PKK demonstrators
- 29.03.2024 - Thailand - Embassy - Racist verbal aggression
- 09.04.2024 - Sovereign Order of Malta - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Receipt of an intimidating message

B. Measures needed or already taken to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as well as missions and representatives with diplomatic status to international intergovernmental organizations

(a) General measures

Security arrangements for diplomatic missions and consular posts are based on the threat analysis conducted by the Threat Analysis Coordination Agency. The Agency determines a threat level for every diplomatic mission in Belgium. The threat level allows the Crisis Centre of the Ministry of the Interior to ask the police to make specific security arrangements adapted to each mission. The Crisis Centre holds a monthly meeting attended by the Protocol Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to review the security arrangements for the various diplomatic missions in Belgium.

(b) Specific measures

Diplomatic missions and consular posts that have a security problem contact the Protocol Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For each incident, the standard procedure is applied. This consists of informing the competent authorities, primarily the Crisis Centre of the Ministry of the Interior, so that the appropriate security measures can be taken by the relevant police district. The mission in question then always receives an acknowledgement from the Protocol Division, setting out the appropriate course of action to be taken.

In addition, whenever the situation so requires, diplomatic missions are immediately invited to file a complaint, if they wish to do so, and are encouraged to send a copy of the report to the Protocol Division. That report is then duly transmitted to the competent authorities. The missions are free to learn the outcome of their complaint by asking the police directly, going through a lawyer or asking the Protocol Division.

C. Serious violations of the protection, security and safety of Belgian diplomatic missions and consular posts

The list below shows the incidents that occurred during the period in question against Belgian diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad:

- 04.04.2022 - Lebanon - Embassy - Following a check on a vehicle parked by the residence, the driver returned and fired at one of the guards, wounding him in the leg. The authorities took action, including arresting the individual. The investigation found that the shots fired did not relate to a threat to Belgian interests, the Embassy or its representatives
- 11.06.2022 - Consulate General of Jerusalem - Trespassing on the property (outside the residence) by two people
- 08.10.2023 - Democratic Republic of Congo - Embassy - Attempted arson of the counter outside the Embassy and attempted breakage of the security glass. One person was arrested by police authorities after Embassy security officers intervened
- 13.01.2024 - Brazil - Embassy - Trespassing on the compound by a “confused” man who wanted to apply for asylum status. After several unsuccessful attempts to reason with him and urge him to leave the premises, the diplomatic police intervened without incident. Information on international protection procedures was subsequently provided to him
- 09.02.2024 - Democratic Republic of the Congo - Lubumbashi Consulate General - Violent anti-Western demonstration with attempts by certain agitators to force their way through the perimeter of the post, despite the presence of Congolese national police. Several security windows were damaged by projectiles (stones, bricks, etc.). Emergency services reacted quickly, and the competent authorities assessed the damage
- 22.03.2024 - South Africa - Embassy - Break-in and theft at the residence
- 09.04.2024 - Côte d’Ivoire - Embassy - After his application was denied, a visa applicant threatened (in writing) to set himself on fire in front of the Embassy