



EU contribution to the report of the Secretary-General to the eightieth session of the General Assembly on measures to eliminate international terrorism

Thank you for your letter of 9 January 2025 requesting information on the measures regional intergovernmental organisations have adopted at the regional level to eliminate international terrorism, as well as on intergovernmental meetings held by those organisations.

To reflect a gender perspective in the input to reports to the Secretary-General, as conveyed in your letter, the EU would like to recall its continued focus on gender responsive counterterrorism (CT) and on preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) policies. As an example, the EU is prioritising gender-responsive CT approaches as co-chair of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF). The EU promotes and practices a prevention-centred approach, addressing root causes of terrorism and upholding human rights, in accordance with good governance standards and the rule of law. Fundamental to our approach, is empowering society as well as civil society organizations, particularly through education and gender equality, as (preventative) countermeasures against terrorism and violent extremism. Human rights are essential in guiding the EU's counterterrorism policy and action in the UN context and beyond. These baselines are underlined by the European Council in the most recent Council Conclusions (COTER) on Reinforcing external-internal connections in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism (16 December 2024). The Council reaffirms that the only sustainable response to existing threats is to be based on democracy, the rule of law, transparency, accountability and gender-responsiveness.

The EU has a strong strategic and legislative framework in place in the field of Counter Terrorism (CT) and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE), underlining the necessity that terrorism and violent extremism must be addressed through a coherent approach that integrates the EU's common foreign and security policy and actions in the area of justice and home affairs: we would like to highlight the EU Strategic Compass, the EU Council Conclusions on Counter Terrorism from 9 June 2022 (TWP), which built on the December 2020 Council Conclusions (Security); the EU Council Conclusions (External Dimension – COTER) from 20 June 2022; the EU Council Conclusions (Future priorities for strengthening counterterrorism efforts – TWP) from 12 December 2024; the EU Council Conclusions (Reinforcing External-Internal connections – COTER) from 16 December 2024; the EU Commission Counter-Terrorism Agenda (December 2020) and the Terrorist Content Online Regulation, which entered into force in June 2022. The EU is currently preparing the new EU Agenda on preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism which is due to be presented by the European Commission in early 2026. This Agenda will set the comprehensive strategic framework, whilst outlining concrete EU actions to be

undertaken, in the field of counterterrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism for the years to come.

Moreover, we would like to highlight EU CT efforts with priority countries (engagement in Africa, in Afghanistan and Central Asia as well as in the Middle-East) and the EU role in multilateral fora, starting from the GCTF), where the EU has renewed its mandate in 2024 as co-chair for a period of two more years and the Global Coalition to defeat Da'esh as the co-lead of the Syria and Iraq Focus Group.

The latest Council Conclusions (12 and 16 December 2024) set strategic goals and highlight key areas where increased efforts are focussed with the aim to enhance operational efficiency, highlighting three key areas of intervention for strengthening counterterrorism efforts: information exchange; detecting and preventing the infiltration of persons posing a terrorist threat; and countering terrorism and violent extremism online.

EU as a co-chair of GCTF

The EU renewed at the February 2024 Coordinating Committee in Nairobi its mandate as a co-chair of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), together with Egypt, for further two years, running now until September 2026. EU-Egypt overarching priorities as GCTF co-Chairs continue to be gender mainstreaming and including promoting the role of women in CT, and, from a geographic perspective, Africa, where the threat level and violent extremism are further increasing.

At its 24th Coordinating Committee Meeting and 14th Ministerial Plenary meeting in September 2024 in New York, the GCTF, co-chaired by the EU, reaffirmed its commitment to counterterrorism, with the EU leading efforts to address threats in Africa. The EU played a central role in promoting capacity-building in East and West Africa, focusing on strategic needs assessments and resource coordination. It worked closely with the African Union to align efforts with African-led priorities, reinforcing a collaborative approach. A major EU-backed achievement was the endorsement of the Brussels Memorandum, which ensures that counterterrorism efforts remain firmly anchored in human rights. Developed with the support of the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ), through the EU's Counter-Terrorism Platform for Human Rights Engagement (CT PHARE), the memorandum outlines good practices for strengthening oversight and accountability mechanisms in counterterrorism. Fully grounded in international legal obligations, it focuses on enhancing the role and responsibilities of these mechanisms in promoting and protecting human rights while effectively countering terrorism.

The GCTF's 25th Coordinating Committee, co-chaired by the European Union and Egypt, will now convene in Doha in October 2025. The meeting will again prioritize Africa, focusing on enhancing counterterrorism cooperation and implementing capacity-building tools. Key actions will include the launch of a toolkit to protect witnesses and justice officials, and the endorsement of educational resources to counter violent extremism. Discussions will also address the intersection of transitional justice and counterterrorism. The EU will reaffirm its leadership in advancing multilateral solutions, especially across Africa.

The EU also continued its support for the three GCTF-inspired institutions: IIJ, Hedayah, and GCERF. Since the establishment of the GCTF in 2011, the EU has made substantive contributions to the GCTF through broad participation in plenaries, coordination committees, working groups, and GCTF initiatives as well as financial contributions to its administrative unit.

The EU provides both strategic and financial support to the three GCTF-inspired institutions. The EU is a member of the governing boards of all three institutions, offering strategic guidance and support. The EU is also one of the GCTF's inspired institutions earliest and most consistent contributors:

1. Funding to **Hedayah** has reached €12 million since its creation. The aim isto support implementation of the STRIVE Global programme that, *inter alia*, primarily focuses on strengthening the capacities of governments to align, design, and implement their respective National Strategies and Action Plans for preventing and countering violent radicalisation and extremism. This also includes support to research based interventions with local CSOs to prevent recruitment to terrorism and facilitate the de-radicalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration processes of foreign terrorist fighter returnees and their family member.
2. Funding to **GCERF** (€40 million) to support community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremism through initiatives in areas such as education, youth, women's advocacy, social entrepreneurship and vocational training.
3. Funding to **IIJ** (€46,5 million) to contribute to criminal justice reform related to counterterrorism activity in line with respect for the rule of law and human rights, to pilot a rule of law-based referral mechanism in the area of prevention of violent extremism (CT PHARE, EUR 3 million). Additional funding was also recently provided to foster networks and gather good practices that will promote the active and meaningful participation and representation of women in security and criminal justice for counter-terrorism across the globe at both the operational and policy levels (Women in CT, EUR 0.5 million), in close coordination with an operational component to be implemented under the EU-UN Global Threats Facility.

In this context, the EU also supports joint efforts in Central Asia led by GCERF, Hedayah, and the IIJ, which promote a holistic and coordinated approach to prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration (PRR), fostering synergies between policy, capacity-building, and grassroots interventions.

The Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the EU

The EU continued to implement the Counter-Terrorism agenda that was presented on 9 December 2020 for the EU to step up the fight against terrorism and violent extremism and boost the EU's resilience to terrorist threats. The Agenda explains that the EU remains on high terrorist alert. To address this threat, the Agenda identifies the following main priorities, centred on 4 pillars/work strands – anticipate, prevent, protect and respond:

1. **Anticipating the terrorist threat**, by building up strategic intelligence, early detection, risk assessment and foresight capabilities;
2. **Preventing and countering radicalisation and violent extremism**, by countering extremist ideologies online, supporting local actors, and strengthening EU action on prisons, rehabilitation and reintegration;
3. **Protecting people, public spaces and infrastructures**, by reducing the vulnerabilities of public spaces (in particular places of worship), making infrastructures more resilient, enhancing border security, and denying terrorists the means to attack;
4. **Responding effectively when terrorist attacks occur**, by strengthening Europol and law enforcement cooperation, strengthening information exchange, and supporting investigations and prosecution.
5. **Continuing international engagement across all four pillars**, by facilitating cooperation and promoting capacity building.

Overall, significant progress has been achieved on all work strands. However, the terrorist and violent extremist threat has continued to evolve since 2020. Today, the EU is faced by considerably different terrorist threat landscape impacted by geopolitical developments, the use of online services to disseminate terrorist content, radicalise and recruit, the use of terrorist modus operandi as a tool of hostile foreign interference, as well as the misuse of emerging technologies (e.g. AI, drones, 3-D printed weapons) by terrorists and violent extremists. Given this evolution, it is time to present a new EU Agenda on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. The new EU Agenda will serve as a comprehensive strategic framework guiding EU actions on counterterrorism and PCVE efforts. Its preparation is supported by extensive stakeholder consultations of public authorities, civil society and private sector. It is due to be presented in early 2026.

Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism

The continued presence of **terrorist content online** is a grave risk to citizens and to society. Terrorists misuse the internet to spread their messages to intimidate, radicalize, recruit, and facilitate carrying out terrorist attacks. The EU has put in place unique legislation to tackle this threat. Since 7 June 2022, the Regulation to address the dissemination of terrorist content applies. Based on the Regulation, terrorist content must be taken down within one hour after it is identified online. This applies for online platforms offering services in the EU, to ensure the safety and security of citizens. At the same time, the Regulation puts in place strong safeguards to guarantee that freedom of expression and information are fully protected. As concluded in the implementation report¹ adopted on 14 February 2024, the TCO Regulation has had a positive impact in limiting the dissemination of terrorist content online, with at least 349 removal orders

¹ [EUR-Lex - 52024DC0064 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

issued until 31 December 2023. These numbers keep on increasing and until 31 May 2024, more than 600 removal orders have been issued by May 2023.

In addition, the European Commission continues to bring together tech industry, EU Member States, civil society, academia as well as international partners on a voluntary level in the **EU Internet Forum**. This Forum provides the platforms to discuss and address the challenges posed by the presence of malicious and illegal content online and develop guidance and support to tech industry in fighting the misuse of their platforms. The Forum continues to be an important platform to react to new developments and address threats beyond legal requirements set by the Terrorist Content Online Regulation and the Digital Services Act.

The European Union is a firm supporter of the Christchurch Call since its establishment in 2019. The European Union is also engaged in the work of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism and is a member of its Independent Advisory Committee.

Measures to prevent and combat terrorism

The **Directive (EU) 2017/541 on combating terrorism**, adopted on 15 March 2017 is the cornerstone of the Member States' criminal justice response to terrorism. It provides for definitions of terrorist and terrorism related offences that are in line with UN Security Council Resolutions, the Council of Europe Convention on the prevention of terrorism (CETS 196) and its Additional Protocol (CETS 217). The Directive helps to prevent terrorist attacks by criminalising acts such as the financing of terrorism, undertaking training or travelling for terrorist purposes, as well as organising or facilitating such travel.

The deadline for transposition of the Directive into national law was September 2018. The Commission adopted the report on the transposition measures by Member States in September 2020. The report concluded that the transposition of the Directive has led to a substantive strengthening of the Member States' criminal justice approach to terrorism and the rights afforded to victims of terrorism. In 2020, the Commission evaluated the functioning of the Directive. The scope and definitions of the Directive, as well as its minimum rules, were assessed to be highly relevant. The evaluation also found that the Directive is expected to remain relevant in the next years.

The Commission initiated proceedings against several Member States to ensure that the legal conditions are in place to enable national authorities to cooperate and exchange information on terrorist threats.

The EU, alongside majority of EU Member States, is a party to the Council of Europe Convention CETS 196 and CETS 217. CETS 196 has been ratified by 43 States Parties, including the EU as an international organisation.

In May 2023, formal negotiations were opened in the Council of Europe to modify the definition of terrorist offences in CETS 196. The current definition in CETS 196 refers to a number of UN CT treaties in the Appendix to the Convention. The aim of the negotiations is to adopt a wider and

more suitable and legally certain definition of terrorist offences in order to address contemporary and future counterterrorism challenges.

As the EU Directive on combating terrorism (EU) 2017/541 provides for a definition of terrorist offences, the Commission obtained an authorisation to negotiate on behalf of the European Union the modification of the definition of terrorist offences CETS 196. The Commission has been playing an active role in the negotiations. The aim of the EU has been to align the modified definition of terrorist offences in Council of Europe with the EU definition, which would have immense added value in terms of fostering mutual legal assistance, extradition requests and international cooperation.

The negotiations have been concluded in November 2024. The agreed definition of terrorist offences complies with principles of legal certainty, by specifying concrete conditions for a list of acts to amount to a terrorist offence. The definition also fully respects international law, including human rights and international humanitarian law. On 9 July 2025, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers adopted the Amending Protocol modifying the definition of terrorist offences in CETS 196. The date for opening of the signature has not been set yet. Once it is decided, the EU will proceed with signature and ratification of the Amending Protocol.

The new and improved EU legislation that enhances the **resilience of critical entities** (Directive (EU) 2022/2557) against man-made (including terrorism) and natural risks has entered into force in early 2023 and is being transposed into national law by Member States. By January 2026, Member States must adopt their national resilience strategies and carry out risk assessments in the eleven sectors covered by the Directive. By July 2026, Member States must identify their critical entities. The Commission is working on guidelines to support Member States in the identification process and to support critical entities in adopting their resilience-enhancing measures. The legislation covers 11 sectors, among which energy, transport, health, space and food. In addition, the EU is providing additional support to Member States in this area. A Council Recommendation on a coordinated approach by the Union to strengthen the resilience of entities operating critical infrastructure was adopted in 2022, based on which stress tests of critical infrastructure were conducted in the energy sector in 2023. A Critical Infrastructure Blueprint is also being adopted as a Council Recommendation, aiming at improving coordination as regards response at EU level to significant cross-border critical infrastructure incidents.

Firearms remain the main means for terrorist to commit their attacks, so measures to prevent and fight against the misuse and trafficking of firearms is a priority for the EU and it is part of the CT Strategy.

Aligned with the CT strategy, the 2020-2025 **EU Action Plan on firearms trafficking** focuses on four priority areas: to safeguard the legal market for firearms and avoid diversion, to build a better intelligence picture, to improve law enforcement crack-down on firearms-related crime, to increase international cooperation. The operational dimension of the EU Action Plan is developed within the operational actions of the EMPACT firearms.

The EU started implementing in February 2023 a list of 11 actions with the Member States, relevant stakeholders, and in agreement with and where necessary with Ukraine, to counter firearms and other small arms and light weapons diversion in the context of Russia's war of aggression. The purpose of this list is to enhance and align our efforts in countering the trafficking of firearms and other small arms and light weapons focusing on prevention, promoting security, and stepping up operational support, with specific measures at short, medium and long term.

In December 2024, the EU adopted the recast Firearms Regulation (EU) 2025/41 on import, export and transfers of **civilian firearms**, which implements Article 10 of the UN Firearms Protocol. The recast Regulation lays down harmonised procedural rules at EU level for export, import and transit of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. Its objective is to reduce the risk of illicit trafficking of firearms for civilian use by ensuring coherence across EU Member States with regard to rules on external trade and improve the traceability of civilian firearms. Moreover, it will decrease the administrative burden of economic operators. Finally, the recast Regulation will strengthen the competent authorities in the prevention and fight of smuggling and diversion of firearms.

Also based on the results of a study mapping criminal sanctions across Member States related to firearms trafficking, the Commission will propose a Directive to establish common criminal law standards at EU level and specific provisions on the illicit manufacture of firearms by 3D printers.

The Commission has been supporting EU Member States in addressing the threats from **non-cooperative drones** since 2016 and many more relevant initiatives have been developed in different European institutions, agencies, member states, international organisations and partner third countries since then. To tie together all the counter-drone activities in the Commission, we adopted a counter-UAS package in 2023 outlining the EU's future policy in this field. This was announced through a dedicated Commission Communication that will describe the upcoming work leading towards EU counter-drone guidelines and even examine the need for legislative measures. Support activities will include a handbook on the protection of critical infrastructure and public spaces, provide technical guidance on the physical protection of infrastructure against drones and establish an enlarged technical expert group on voluntary standards to cover counter-drone solutions.

The EU is one of the leading donors in the world on technical assistance on **anti-money laundering and countering financing of terrorism**. In line with the Counter Terrorism Agenda, in 2022 the EU established a **Counter Terrorism Financial Investigators Network** with the aim to bring about an exchange of expertise and best practices between investigators. This network is the focal point for increased capacity and competence building for counter terrorism financing investigators. The EU has strengthened the EU network of Financial Intelligence Units, that work together to analyse Suspicious Transaction and exchange information through a dedicated IT system, and increased the capacity and competence building for counter terrorism financing investigators.

On 30 May 2024, EU legislators approved **a new package of anti-money laundering rules**, which will apply after a three year implementation period. It will help the EU and its Member States to

further develop the tools to detect and prevent terrorist financing, notably regarding a better coverage of all crowd-funding platforms, a future AML Authority to foster cooperation among financial intelligence units, e.g. on terrorist financing cases investigations; or regulating and supervising more adequately crypto-assets services providers. The new regulation exhaustively harmonises anti-money laundering rules for the first time throughout the EU. The package sets up a new **European Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism** (AMLA) that will have direct and indirect supervisory powers over high-risk obliged entities in the financial sector. AMLA will be based in Frankfurt and start operations in mid-2025.

Counterterrorism Efforts with Third Countries

The EU's involvement in counterterrorism and security actions all around the world – especially in the neighbouring countries and on the African continent – reinforce the EU's role as the **largest external cooperation partner in the world and a global security actor**. We address both the long-term causes of terrorism and respond to emerging crisis linked to terrorism. The Council Conclusions of 16 December 2024 emphasise the need for further investment in cooperation with third countries, in particular through dialogues and capacity-building projects.

Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) is an important priority for the EU, both within and outside the EU borders. The European Commission supports a wide range of initiatives aimed at addressing the security needs of every partner in a tailored manner. This includes, actions aimed at identifying drivers for youth radicalisation and supporting their rehabilitation (STRIVE Juvenile, EUR 10.5 million), empowering women, promoting community dialogue, or strengthening local actors. Interventions also focus on improving the capacity of media and education sectors to address radicalising ideologies, including through projects implemented by the GCTF-inspired institutions (as mentioned earlier). In addition, violent right-wing extremism is increasingly seen as a threat also outside the EU.

Since 2022, the EU, in partnership with UNOCT and working closely with CTED, oversees the **EU-UN Terrorism Threats Facility** (EUR 14 million) to enable UN Member States to receive expert assistance across the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to rapidly respond to identified needs, as well as develop capacities to detect, prevent, counter, prosecute, investigate and respond to this evolving threat and emerging terrorist modi operandi, while ensuring respect for international law, human rights and the rule of law, thereby enhancing the resilience of States facing a dynamic and persistent terrorist threat. Additional funding was provided to the Facility in 2024 and 2025, including a new component dedicated to enhancing women's role in counterterrorism that will be implemented in close coordination with III.

Building on **CT TECH** (EUR 5 million), the EU is also working with UNOCT in supporting nine key countries to improve their policy, strategic and operational responses to the increased misuse of new technologies for terrorist purposes, while protecting human rights and in a gender-responsive manner (CT TECH +, EUR 4.5 million).

Through the **UN-EU Countering Terrorist Travel Partnership**, the EU works closely with UN partners to detect, track and counter suspected terrorists and serious criminals and their travel by

using passenger data, improving the use of existing databases of known and suspected terrorists and criminals and enhance international information exchange, while respecting international human rights and fundamental freedoms. Moreover, the EU supports the implementation of its CT TRAVEL programme in the Middle East and North Africa (EUR 2 million).

The EU continued to support **judicial capacity building** in close cooperation with strategic partners such as GCTF inspired institutions and the UN (UNODC- STRIVE Juvenile).

Through **CT JUST (EUR 12 million)**, the EU works to strengthen the weakest or missing links in the CT criminal justice chain in priority countries in the MENA region, Sahel and the Horn of Africa from a rule of law and human rights perspective. In addition to strengthening national structures, CT Just promotes judicial and police cooperation mechanisms for the development of effective criminal investigations and efficient transnational operational responses. It also works on the establishment and development of connections and strategic dialogue at the regional and transregional levels.

CT INFLOW (EUR 6 million, phase II) facilitates the sharing of best practices on the exchange of information, criminal analysis, cross-border investigations and prosecutions, in particular about foreign terrorist fighters and individuals suspected of planning or carrying out terrorist offences, with the aim to improve international cooperation in this area.

The EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative is a civilian security programme focusing on the mitigation of risks and threats related to **chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials**, stemming from accidental, natural or criminal sources. It contributes to sustain peace and stability and build resilience. The initiative currently includes 64 partner countries outside of the EU grouped in eight regions. CBRN risk mitigation covers a broad range of activities that can include also links to critical infrastructure protection, climate security, security of public spaces, counterterrorism and cybersecurity, as well as strategic export controls.

The EU moreover supports authorized actors to deploy computer vision artificial intelligence detection and identification capabilities for **illicit arms and ammunition** in a range of operational contexts, including emergency mine action, counter-trafficking, counterterrorism, and CBRN-E, and in support of legal accountability mechanisms (Automated Arms and Ammunition Mapping, EUR 0.5 million). It is also supporting third countries in countering illicit arms flows stemming from conflict zones (IARMS, phase V, EUR 4 million).

In the field of **preventing money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism**, the EU continued its engagement with priority countries outside of the EU, through the Global Facility on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (GF-AML/CFT). The EU GF-AML/CFT provides demand-driven support to the adoption by third countries of enhanced measures designed to prevent money laundering and cut off access to funding for individual terrorists and terrorist organisations, through increased compliance with the EU AML/CFT Framework, FATF Recommendations and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. Besides regional activities, the EU GF-AML/CFT has so far engaged in over 40 countries bilaterally,

providing expert assistance on multiple areas including beneficial ownership, virtual assets, targeted financial sanctions or non-profit organisations, in close coordination with DG FISMA.

Western Balkans

The EU's internal security is strongly linked to the security in the Western Balkans, cooperation on counterterrorism is essential to protect the EU from terrorist threats, and to strengthen the capacity of the Western Balkans partners to fight and prevent terrorism and violent extremism. Moreover, the Western Balkans partners are at different stages of their EU's accession process, and as such they need to align with the EU legislative and strategic framework also in the domain of counterterrorism,

Since 2018 the EU has had in place a Joint Action plan on counter terrorism for the Western Balkans agreed with the six Western Balkans partners. The current Joint Action Plan is built on **five objectives**: 1) A robust framework for countering terrorism and preventing/countering violent extremism: institutional set-up and legal alignment, implementation and enforcement capacity; 2) Effective prevention and countering of violent extremism; 3) Effective information exchange and operational cooperation; 4) Build capacity to combat money laundering and terrorism financing; 5) Strengthen the protection of citizens and infrastructure.

The implementation of the Joint Action Plan has been supported by EU funded regional and bilateral programmes that allowed among other things, stepping up capacity building of the Western Balkans partners, cooperation with European Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) agencies, and regional cooperation.

Given the rapidly evolving security landscape the EU and the Western Balkans have worked on a **new Joint Action Plan** that should be signed at the occasion of the EU-Western Balkans JHA Ministerial Forum on 30-31 October 2025 in Sarajevo. The overall aim of the new Joint Action Plan is to set new, more ambitious objectives to lift the cooperation with Western Balkan partners in the sensitive field of counter terrorism, prevention and countering of violent extremism, aligning it to new emerging threats, but also to new legislative and operational instruments at disposal.

Afghanistan and (Central) Asia

The situation in Afghanistan remains of great concern, with terrorist threats emanating from this country to the region, in particular Central Asia, and at global level. The EU has been continuing to strengthen its cooperation with Central Asian countries to tackle this threat.

In July 2025, the **first EU-Central Asia Counterterrorism Dialogue** was organised in Dushanbe, with attendance from all five Central Asian states. The Dialogue was a deliverable of the first EU-Central Asia Summit in April 2025 and focussed on matters of common interest, including cooperation on CT and best practices.

From 2024, new phases of projects on organised crime and terrorism from Afghanistan (EU ACT, including the second phase of the former LEICA) ensure an **increased support to law enforcement capacities** in Central Asia, with a view of enhancing security both on a national and

regional level, among others through strategic and operational exchanges on CT between the European law enforcement communities. This action is completed by IARMS program, implemented by Interpol and UNODC, with a component to support UNAMA against SALW trafficking outside Afghanistan, through an UNODC adviser posted in Kabul. IARMS is also planning a major operation against SALW trafficking from Central Asia / Caucasus / Ukraine to Europe, implemented by Interpol.

The EU is launching a new phase of the Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP) and the Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA) with a focus on the law enforcement components and strengthening border security, including by integrating new technologies. Other new programmes will ensure support to PRR process of returnees in Central Asia.

Supporting Asian countries' resilience to violent extremism in the digital space is another new EU funded project implemented with UNODC and UNDP (EUR 5 million) to strengthen community mechanisms, knowledge and capacities to build resilience against online violent extremism. Activities aim as well to foster trust-based multi-stakeholders' partnership against online radicalization under the framework of regional Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) networks in Central Asia (CAPVE), South Asia (SAN-PVE) and the Preparatory Working Group in South-East Asia (PWG-SEAN-PVE).

Initiatives mentioned earlier, such as CT TECH +, Global EU AML/CFT Facility or the EU-UN Global Threats Facility are also active in Central Asia.

Africa

The EU's approach is to tackle the increased terrorist threat on the African continent through **an inclusive and African-led approach**. Therefore, EU support addresses the drivers of radicalization; weakening the terrorist groups by targeting their dissemination of propaganda, recruitment and financing; and provides significant, multidimensional support to African countries by strengthening our partners - on a national and regional level – through capacity building efforts, improving the criminal justice chain (intelligence, the judiciary, law enforcement) and military systems. **Of the €659 million the EU spends on Counterterrorism and prevention of violent extremism related programming, 72% is allocated to the African continent.**

The support comes via **several programmes and initiatives**. Through EU financed UNODC training to the attorney general's office and the central investigative police, the EU is strengthening law enforcement responses to terrorism in Mozambique.

Several projects are implemented on the African continent in the framework of global initiatives: for example, the EU STRIVE Juvenile initiative supports Nigeria in the prevention and response to violence against children by terrorist and violent extremist groups; through GCERF the EU supports numerous grassroots initiatives across West and East Africa to prevent violent extremism. In countries like Mali, Chad, and Burkina Faso, through GCERF, the EU supports local organisations to promote cross-border community resilience, youth engagement, and online counter-narratives. Its approach empowers communities with tools and resources tailored to local needs.

EU CT INFLOW focuses on sharing good practices between the EU and countries in the MENA region, the Sahel and East Africa. Under CT INFLOW, international standards and good practices for the exchange of information and analysis in the Sahel, including the use of new technologies, have been promoted. CT TECH/CTECH + works in Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Within the CT JUST programme, in 2024 the EU supported activities on the judicialization of intelligence and judicial treatment of terrorism for countries of the Gulf of Guinea and the Horn of Africa. The EU Global AML/CFT Facility continued to assist several African countries; and the EU also continued to support Ghana, Kenya and Senegal in building their capacities with regard to public space protection from terrorist threats (EUR 6 million).

In Kenya the EU is also supported and continues to support a Community Engagement and Resilience Programme (EUR 2 million) to reduce the number and intensity of incidents of violent extremism. Efforts include strengthening the resilience of communities, women and men in all their diversity 'at risk' of suffering from (or being engaged in) violent extremism (VE).

Interpol's IARMS will also launch major operations against SALW trafficking from conflict zones in Africa as well.

The EU also provides military training and equipment to African countries. An example of which is the EU's support to Somalia and Mozambique, as an answer to the immediate threat posed by the so-called IS-Mozambique province, al-Shabaab and IS-Somalia. The EU has also supported AMISOM/ATMIS for many years – a key African Union peace support operation to support Somalia's fight against terrorist groups. **Through the European Peace Facility the EU continues to support efforts of the Lake Chad Basin countries and the trans-regional Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF)** – a home-grown regional response to terrorism, supported by the international community. The EU's support to the MNJTF - since 2016 amounting to more than 200 million Euros - is part of the EU's wider comprehensive approach to addressing the threat from different angles, both kinetic and non-kinetic.

The EU continues to provide substantial support to regional initiatives aimed at countering the spillover of jihadism from the Sahel to the coastal states of the Gulf of Guinea.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the EU supports the *Académie Internationale de Lutte Contre le Terrorisme* (AILCT) in Abidjan with a contribution of EUR 10 million for the period 2023–2025. This funding facilitates the construction, equipping, and enhancement of training facilities. The EU also holds a seat on the Academy's Board of Directors, contributing to its strategic direction. Through the AILCT, the EU promotes enhanced cooperation on preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). Notable activities funded by the EU in 2024 and 2025 include a seminar at Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny in Abidjan on countering jihadist propaganda and its impact on youth, as well as the public presentation of three research studies. EU Member States further support the Academy by deploying experts to deliver specialized training in areas such as drone operations, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), intelligence gathering, and PCVE.

To strengthen regional information exchange, the EU has supported the deployment of the West African Police Information System (WAPIS) in collaboration with INTERPOL. A key component

of this initiative is the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), which aims to establish or reinforce AFIS capabilities in ECOWAS member states and Mauritania through the provision of equipment, training, and capacity building, thereby enhancing the forensic chain.

This regional engagement is complemented by bilateral actions under the EU's broader strategy to mitigate the risk of terrorism spillover from the Sahel into coastal West African countries. In Côte d'Ivoire, the EU is implementing a project focused on financial integrity and combating money laundering and terrorism financing (AML/CFT), aimed at strengthening national systems. Additional support has been provided to operationalize counterterrorism structures, foster trust between security forces and communities, anticipate and resolve conflicts, and engage youth in prevention efforts. Another project, located near the border with Mali, contributes to local development and the prevention of violent extremism.

In Benin, EU initiatives include strengthening the capacities of security and intelligence services and improving medical support for communities most affected by terrorist armed groups. In Ghana, the EU is supporting a project to prevent violent extremism and promote peace in the northern border regions. This includes enhancing the role of civil society organizations in peacebuilding and PVE, expanding Early Warning Systems to incorporate PVE indicators, and reinforcing the mediation role of Regional Peace Councils. The *EU for a Secure Ghana* action also supports the country's integrated CVE and counter-terrorism efforts from a human rights perspective, strengthens responses to transnational organized crime (including firearms trafficking), and enhances violence prevention mechanisms.

The *Multidimensional Security and Stabilisation Programme in Africa* (EUR 30 million, 2024–2028) includes a component focused on strengthening criminal justice systems to address terrorism in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Benin. This project is partially implemented by UNODC, with a budget of EUR 4.5 million. The project collaborates with both the AILCT and the Centre de Perfectionnement aux Actions Post-Conflictuelles de Déminage et de Dépollution (CPADD), a key national training centre with regional outreach in Benin, also supported by the EU. An additional component, *Stabilisation des Régions Transfrontalières Benin-Niger-Nigeria* (EUR 6.5 million), aims to enhance the resilience and capacities of border populations in preventing conflict and violent extremism.

Complementing these efforts - the project *La Réintégration des Ex-Combattants et l'Autonomisation des Femmes: Remparts Communautaires à l'Extrémisme Violent en Afrique* (EUR 11.5 million, 2026–2030), includes also a focus on West Africa where it seeks to strengthen the role of women in mechanisms to counter violent extremism, particularly in Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. In the Lake Chad Basin region, a substantial portion of activities will support the reintegration of former Boko Haram associates and ex-combatants. The initiative also aims to reinforce civil society organizations and local and traditional authorities to improve their capacity to address gender-based violence and counter violent extremism in areas affected by terrorist groups.

At the continental level, the EU is addressing the issue of illicit financial flows (IFFs), which often originate from Africa and target European destinations. The SecFin Africa programme (EUR 45

million, 2024–2028) enhances the capacity of Sub-Saharan African countries to combat IFFs linked to transnational organized crime, money laundering, and terrorism financing. It adopts a “follow-the-money” approach and aligns with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards.

Syria and Iraq

The EU actions and engagement in Syria and Iraq related to specifically engaging in Northeast Syria as well as with Iraq regarding repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.

Within its **humanitarian mandate, the EU is supporting partners in North East Syria to assist the most vulnerable people in need, in accordance with humanitarian principles**. In 2024 close to **EUR 35 million was allocated to Northeast Syria**, both in and out of camps, supporting a range of sectors including health, access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Education in Emergency and Child Protection. In Al-Hol, the EU follows a multi-sectorial approach aiming to improve protection and basic service provision across health and camp coordination and management through support to UN agencies, INGOs and the ICRC. The budget for 2024 for Syria amounts to EUR 182.5 million. This supports the high level of humanitarian needs in the region, focusing on a principled response based on needs and vulnerability of the population affected and access and capacities of partners to implement humanitarian programming.

Moreover, the EU engages in camps in Northeast Syria in support to **stabilisation and the prevention of further radicalisation**, or actions focused on the **rehabilitation and reintegration of vulnerable individuals** through **protection, mental health and psychological support**. Over the last five years, the allocated amount for these efforts by the EU reached EUR 9.5 million.

Additionally, in 2024 the EU completed a project (EUR 2 million) focusing on the **reintegration of 200 Al Hol Camp IDP households** into home and host communities, through sustainable economic empowerment and social cohesion activities.

In an overarching multi-annual programme running from 2021-2027, the Eu provides an additional EUR 225 million of funding to Iraq focussing on migration and on the Syria refugee crisis. These programmes are two-pronged: tackling migration governance, as well as root causes of migration, fragility and displacement. Country-wide programmes benefit all refugees, IDPs and returnees from Al-Hol or Al-Amal camps. These programmes focus on the reintegration of returnees in their communities of origin and/or resettlement elsewhere through i.a. strengthened capacities of Iraqi migration systems, as well as education, TVET, job creation and social protection.

Moreover, the EU supports several projects on **mental health and health** (EUR 5.3 million) which aim to increase the availability and quality of specialised personnel in the northern Syria region.

The EU has in July 2025 mobilized an additional EUR 18 million to further support efforts to prevent radicalisation, enable the return and reintegration of Syrians from camps in Northeast of the country, and in Iraq, to enhance Iraqi government capacity in its efforts for the return, repatriation and reintegration of its citizens from camps in Northeast Syria.

The UNOCT-led EU-UN Global CT facility provides support to the Iraqi government for the **repatriation of Iraqis from the camps** (capacity building), and the EU will implement a second support package in favour of Iraqi NSS, to enable its staff addressing major challenges in the repatriation and reintegration process of returnees from camps in North East Syria, including also a strong gender and human rights dimension.

Furthermore, the EU supports Iraq in facilitating the **reintegration of Iraqis into local communities**, following their repatriation from Syria and subsequent security screening. Secondly, civil society organisations and local authorities in Iraq are supported to carry out reintegration activities in Iraq with a particular focus on women and children.

The EU supports a **series of actions including on counterterrorism and PCVE** including action on PRR (EU-UN Global Terrorism Threats Facility), improving the cooperation of **national human rights institutions**, Ombudsman institutions and local authorities with civil society and counter terrorism practitioners (CT PHARE), **training Iraqi investigators in forensics** (CT JUST), raising awareness of countering violent extremism among public officials and civil society organizations (STRIVE Hedayah), together with UNODC supporting **rehabilitating juveniles** associated with Da'esh, handing over refurbished juvenile reformatories in Baghdad and Mosul and **improving detention conditions** and supporting the rehabilitation and **reintegration of children** formerly associated with violent extremist groups (STRIVE Juvenile); and fostering resilience against violent extremism through grants and capacity-building to **implement local plans** (GCERF).

Global Coalition Against Da'esh

The EU has assumed an enhanced role in the Global Coalition by taking on the co-lead role of the Core Focus Group covering Syria and Iraq within the Global Coalition Against Da'esh. In light of the situation in Syria and the region, including its impact on the terrorist threat, the EU stays committed to strengthening its contribution on other fronts as well, including through intensified efforts on countering the Da'esh narrative. The Coalition has succeeded in pushing Da'esh out of territory it once held and severely degraded its military and economic capacities. Nevertheless, the Coalition's support to the stability of northeast Syria and to Iraq remains crucial. Seeking to enhance multilateral synergies, the EU will continue supporting the Coalition's reforms to ensure that it stays fit for purpose. In this context, the EU will actively support efforts to explore mutual reinforcement of the Coalition and the GCTF. The EU remains engaged in all the Coalition's focus groups and working groups, including on Terrorist Travel, Countering the Financing of Terrorism, Communications, Central-Asia and Africa.