
EU TERRORISM SITUATION AND TREND REPORT: TE-SAT 2012

25 Apr 2012

[Press Release](#)

The Hague, the Netherlands

2011 presented a highly diverse terrorism picture in which the most notable trend was the increasing prominence of lone and solo actor plots.

"In 2011, the total number of terrorist attacks and terrorism-related arrests in the EU continued to decrease. This is a welcome development, but terrorism and violent extremism still represent a significant threat, and we must remain vigilant. Sadly 77 people in Norway and another 2 in Germany were killed in 2011 by 'lone actors'. Looking ahead, lone actors will continue to pose a threat, whether inspired by political or religious extremism. Organised underground groups also have the capability and intention to carry out attacks," says Rob Wainwright, Director of Europol.

"Radicalisation into violent extremism and lone wolf attacks represents a significant threat for European citizens and have led to many tragedies, such as in Norway. We must reinforce our efforts to prevent violent extremism by becoming better at identifying individuals at risk of radicalisation. The Radicalisation Awareness Network launched by the European Commission last September is an important tool to help us in this work and I am looking forward to the presentation of its first results after the summer. The most important thing is to stand up against extremist views and propaganda across the spectrum, from online forums to the global political debate," says Cecilia Malmström European Commissioner responsible for Home Affairs.

The death of Osama Bin Laden has not removed the threat of al Qaeda-inspired terrorism. Instead, the threat has evolved and lone actors, or small EU-based groups, are becoming increasingly prominent, as is the Internet as a key facilitator for terrorism-related activities.

The bomb attack and killing spree in Norway in July 2011, referred to in the TE-SAT report, and the arrests of individuals in a number of Member States for the preparation of terrorist attacks, are proof of the continuing need for vigilance.

The main figures for 2011 are:

- 174 terrorist attacks in EU Member States.

- 484 individuals arrested in the EU for terrorist-related offences.
- Lone actors were responsible for the killing of 2 persons in Germany, and 77 persons in the non-EU country Norway.
- 316 individuals in concluded court proceedings for terrorism charges.

Terrorist and extremist groups have a substantial online presence, and the Internet has become the principal means of communication for terrorist and violent extremist individuals and groups. The internet is used for a range of purposes, including instruction, propaganda, recruitment, dispatch of members to conflict areas, fundraising, cooperation with other terrorist organisations, and the planning and coordination of attacks.

Apart from its use as a communication tool, the internet offers new and additional possibilities to carry out electronic terrorist attacks, for example on the operating systems of critical infrastructure in EU Member States, like energy production facilities and transport systems. Leading members of al-Qaeda have already encouraged “electronic jihad” against critical infrastructure in Western countries.

“Combating terrorism and violent extremism is a huge challenge which requires innovative measures and cooperation between many stakeholders. Law enforcement authorities need to monitor suspicious activities, intelligence needs to be shared between agencies and information from the public needs to be considered. One fear is that the upcoming Olympic Games in London could be a target, which of course we must do our utmost to prevent,” says Rob Wainwright.

The TE-SAT is a public report produced by Europol on the basis of information provided and verified by the competent law enforcement authorities in the Member States of the EU. The arrests and incidents that took place in the EU in 2011, as referred to in this report, are those that Member States have reported to Europol for the purposes of the TE-SAT.

Please go to the Europol website or click this link for [the full version of the TE-SAT 2012](#).

CRIME AREAS [Terrorism](#)
TARGET GROUPS [General Public](#) • [Law Enforcement](#) • [Academia](#) • [Professor](#) • [Students](#) • [Researcher](#) •
[Press/Journalists](#) • [Other](#)

Source URL: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/eu-terrorism-situation-and-trend-report-te-sat-2012>