

EUROPEAN IDEAS NETWORK SUMMIT UNIVERSITY
The Crisis in Europe:
'Re-Inventing EU Policies Delivering Growth and Fighting Poverty'
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By Eduardo Gutiérrez, Diplomate and Deputy Secretary for International Relations of Partido Popular of Spain

The panelists made an extensive review of the fight against terrorism throughout the world and the efforts, on the national and internacional levels, to curb it.

- Ex President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia stressed the terrorist character of the guerrilla's activities in his country. Their aim is not only insurgency but to destroy the Colombian democracy. He went on to explain the evolution and satisfactory outcome of the Democratic Security Policy followed by his Administration and emphasizing that nowadays narco trafficking lies at the root of all the problems of violence that Colombia suffers.
- Hungarian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hemeth, said that nuclear awareness originated by the catastrophe of Chernobyl has been replaced worldwide by terrorism awareness since 9-11.

He described the structure of his Government to confront terrorism and the strong commitment of Hungary in Afganistan. He underlined the importance of cooperation between the EU and the US as a key alliance against terrorism. Finally, he stressed that the EPP must not be ashamed by this strong antiterrorism committment even though regrettable episodes like Guantanamo have harmed the image of our cause.

- OAS Advisor of the Interamerican Committee against Terrorism, Mr. Ibanez, made an exhaustive review of the actions taken up to now in the Americas to fight terrorism. He stressed that international cooperation against terrorism is essential and that every country must cooperate (even those which are not directly affected by it).

In his view the key for success is that every actor concerned in this fight must trust each other because unity is *a conditio sine qua non* for effective action.

- Mr. Walid Phares underlined the importance of the Transatlantic Legislative Group on Counterterrorism set up in 2008 as a token of the importance of cooperation between Brussels and Washington. He made a review of the situation in four regions: Middle East and Africa – from Iraq to the Sahel -, Europe, Latin America and the US.

He warned that the ultimate goal of the Islamist is to set up a New Caliphate (stretching from Afghanistan to Morocco) and that de-radicalization has to be the new line of action against terrorism (beyond socio-economic reasons). Ideological Indoctrination lies nowadays at the root of radicalization.

- Judge Broughiere stated that the level of the threat remains very high and analysed the situation in Af-Pak; Somalia – where he warned against the indifference of the International Community about what is going on there-; and the Sahel, where AQMI is acquiring growing capacities and being funded by narcoterrorism.

But there are indeed good news like the Swift Agreement, the actions taken by Europol and Eurojust and the efforts on the national level like the ones taken by the French Government.

- Simon Bussutill said that the EPP is strong on antiterrorism but he warned against growing anti-Americanism (a sentiment that exists not only in the left) as an obstacle for the approval of the swift dossier and about the legitimate concerns on privacy and data protection.