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**EIN POLICY ROUNDTABLE ON  
TERRORISM AND INTERNAL SECURITY**

**CHAIRMAN: JAIME MAYOR OREJA MEP (EPP-ED GROUP)**

**RAPPORTEUR: PROFESSOR ANTHONY GLEES (UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM)**

**Background**

Seven years after the attacks of September 11th, combating international terrorism remains a top **priority** for US and European leaders. Since first meeting in 2003, this EIN working group has focussed on how to counter the terrorist threat facing the EU, and to tackle underlying **factors** fuelling home-grown terror networks. Terrorism instils a climate of fear, undermining democratic institutions. - As Europol's 2008 report on the current situation and trends warns &quot;the overall threat to the member states from terrorism remains **serious** &quot;.

In the UK, law enforcement and intelligence authorities track dozens of active plots, hundreds of terrorist **cells** and over two thousand people who may be associated with the conspiracies - including many young, **radicalised** British citizens. The foiled attacks of 2007 in Germany and Denmark show that contacts with al-Qaeda-affiliated groups in Pakistan and Afghanistan are posing an EU-wide problem. These are increasingly recognised as one of the main drivers of Islamist **extremism** and terrorism in the EU. An investigation in Belgium into the **recruitment** of suicide bombers, started in 2005 after a Belgian woman became the first European female suicide bomber in Iraq, has revealed a network of **intermediaries** for al-Qaeda spread across Europe and the Middle East.

During the last five years, a safe **haven** has been established in the lawless tribal areas of Pakistan - with al-Qaeda retaining core command, control and planning capabilities. Terrorist training camps operate in support of the Afghan Taliban, pro-Taliban

**Pakistani**

and foreign mujahideen groups.

**Afghani**

police are a ready target of insurgents, with 925 Afghan policemen killed last year alone. While the formal will-power of the international community to stay the course is regularly expressed, words must be backed by clearer action and stronger political leadership. Europe should play a fuller role in fighting terror at its source.

Al-Qaeda has built a powerful **propaganda** machine, mastering internet and Islamist Jihadist press outlets, such as the Global Islamic Media Front and al-Fajr Media Centre. With ever more terrorism propaganda spread via **internet**, this is fast becoming the main way for terrorists to attract new recruits and to provide logistical support. Terror groups also use the freedom and anonymity of the internet to communicate and devise attacks pointed at the weakest and most vulnerable parts of our system. Terrorism is ever alert to **media** opportunities, using the 'border less' world of communications and globalisation.

The centre-right must lead the fight against terror and crime by shaping counter-terrorism policies: delivering **security** through sensible and effective measures under the rule of law. During the EIN **summer university** in Warsaw in 2007, the policy roundtable noted that Europe must not let a fear of Islamist fundamentalism corrode European **values**. Jihadist or Salafist inspired terror can never have any 'legitimate' sources in EU liberal democracies. Appeasement is not a cure for extremism, but an encouragement to it. The centre-right needs to promote **dialogue** and work with the oft silent majority of Muslims who want nothing to do with terror.

Parliamentary **democracy** insists that political change flows from voting - and never from violent action. The European Convention on Human Rights should be superseded by a modern EU code which better balances rights of individuals and the rights of communities to be **safe** from attack. The EU should seek to limit immigration by promoting political change in rogue, failed and failing states through long-term political and economic **partnerships**, and European values. Poverty can also fuel Jihadism, even if many terrorist leaders are drawn from the elites.

In January 2008, the working group held an EIN **seminar** with Conservative Parliamentary Mainstream in London to look at the **causes** of terrorism. Political leaders were urged to become more open about the true nature of terror threats. Democracies must stand united in the war against terror. Education was seen as playing a role in countering **radicalisation**, but this should not be allowed to lead to the development of Muslim enclaves. Schools serving only one cultural or ethnic section of society must be discouraged, and community integration encouraged.

At the EIN Brussels **breakfast briefing** in March 2008, and in April 2008 at the EIN's Euro-American **parliamentary forum** in Washington DC, participants examined the war of ideas and the origins of Jihadism - warning of the threat posed by media infiltration and the lack of public awareness. The clear global dimension to terrorism requires the EU to work alongside the United States in fighting terror worldwide.

**In preparing for the Fiuggi summer university this year, the following areas could benefit from further analysis:**

**? Looking at the UK's 'Prevent' policy, could the EU also use counter-radicalisation policy to counter terrorism?**

**? How should the EU and member states combat cyber-crime and enhance cyber-security?**

**? Should Europe control the use of the internet and satellite communications to stop terrorist propaganda?**

**? To what degree can EURODAC information be made available to law enforcement agencies?**

**? What is the scale and nature of the threat to EU security posed by the Western Balkans?**

**? Would the Lisbon Treaty help to increase the EU's ability to fight terrorism and organised crime?**