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Ressort: Politik

OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference in Rome

Rome, 11.05.2018 [ENA]

The Italian OSCE Chairmanship convened on 10-11 May in Rome (Italy) an OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference, prepared with the support of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department (TNTD), in teamwork with other OSCE Executive Structures, within their respective mandates.

The conference aims to discuss and exchange good practices on addressing and developing effective policy to prevent violent extremism

and radicalization that lead to terrorism and counter terrorism in full compliance with human rights, with a special focus on addressing new threats posed by the return of FTFs.

The UN Security Council Resolutions 2396 (2017) and 2354 (2017) urge Member States to support global efforts to address the challenges related to foreign terrorist fighters returning or relocating from conflict zones, through improved border control, effective criminal justice systems, prompt information-sharing, preventing and countering, countering the narratives used by terrorist groups and amplifying positive and credible alternatives to audiences vulnerable to terrorist messaging, and through preventing and suppressing terrorist financing.

Like all related OSCE commitments, and in line with the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security, the Resolutions also emphasize that all measures to counter terrorism must comply with international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, not least because human rights are complementary and mutually reinforcing with effective counter-terrorism measures.

Rome conference aims to foster regional and international cooperation on these matters. The two-day conference is discussing and exchanging good practices and is trying to foster regional and international co-operation on these matters.

The following topics are discussed during the conference:

- Trends and dynamics of returning or relocating foreign terrorist fighters: exchange of views on national experiences and international co-operation;
- Managing the return/relocation of foreign terrorist fighters: strengthening border security and information sharing;
- Addressing the potential threat of returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters and their affiliates: rehabilitation and reintegration programs within and outside the criminal justice system;

**Redaktioneller Programmdienst:
European News Agency**

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16
D-85055 Ingolstadt
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661
Email: contact@european-news-agency.com
Internet: european-news-agency.com

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•Addressing accompanying family members of foreign terrorist fighters: legal gaps, juvenile justice, engaging with civil society. As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE actively contributes to global efforts to prevent and counter terrorism by making use of its approach to security. Year after year, the OSCE Chairmanships have continued to foster the Organisation’s efforts to counter the phenomenon and the Italian Chairmanship intends to do the same in 2018. At present, there is an urgent concern that returning or relocating foreign terrorists may engage in violent acts at home, incite others to terrorist acts, take part in terrorist recruitment efforts and fundraise for terrorist organizations.

Challenges include how to provide law enforcement institutions with the appropriate and effective tools to reply in a human rights-compliant way to terrorist crimes and how to disengage both returning FTFs, as well as their accompanying family members, and those (so-called “home-grown terrorists”) inspired/radicalized to commit acts of terrorism by FTFs from their terrorist affiliation. Further efforts are also needed in dealing with terrorist fighters in prison and post-prison environments. Countering the exploitation of the Internet for terrorist purposes, as well as protecting against attacks against critical and/or soft targets is also a vital question.

Against this background, there are also increasing requests by States for support in developing new and innovative programmes to assist with the rehabilitation and reintegration of FTFs. Parliaments and international fora such as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly have a crucial role to play in determining innovative legislation and policies to reduce threats posed by returning foreign terrorist fighters, or FTFs, declared Chair of the OSCE PA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism Makis Voridis at the conference in Rome today.

As representatives of more than a billion citizens across North America, Europe and Central Asia, OSCE parliamentarians are fully committed to addressing terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization throughout the region, Voridis said. The OSCE PA is working to improve counter-terrorism legal frameworks while ensuring that policies respect fundamental freedoms, said Voridis, a member of the Greek Parliament.

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**Redaktioneller Programmdienst:
European News Agency**

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16
D-85055 Ingolstadt
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661
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