

 **EUROPOL**

TE-SAT 2010

EU TERRORISM SITUATION AND
TREND REPORT



PAGINA BIANCA

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1. FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR



The European Union (EU) Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2010 is Europol's first major public awareness product under our new legal framework. On 1 January 2010 Europol became an EU agency, acquiring a broader mandate and an enhanced capability to fulfil its mission of supporting its Member States.

The TE-SAT aims to provide law enforcement officials, policymakers and the general public with facts and figures regarding terrorism in the EU, while also seeking to identify trends in the development of this phenomenon. It is a public document produced annually on the basis of information provided and verified by the competent law enforcement authorities in the EU Member States. The TE-SAT reports are available at Europol's website (<http://www.europol.europa.eu>).

Terrorism continues to impact on the lives of Member States' citizens both inside and outside the EU. In 2009, seven people (five police officers and two soldiers) were killed and scores of individuals injured as a result of terrorist attacks in Greece, Northern Ireland and Spain.

In some cases it is difficult to differentiate between criminality and acts of terrorism or extremism. Terrorism is not an ideology but a set of criminal tactics which deny fundamental principles of democratic societies. EU Member States have agreed to regard terrorist acts as those which aim to intimidate popu-

lations, compel states to comply with the perpetrators' demands, and/or destabilise or destroy the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country or an international organisation. The TE-SAT respects the classifications made by the EU Member States.

In 2009, the total number of terrorist attacks and terrorism-related arrests in the EU continued to decrease. This is a welcome development which, however, must not be understood as an invitation to lower the guard. Islamist terrorists inside and outside the EU continue to aim for indiscriminate mass casualties. Separatist terrorists killed more people in the EU in 2009 than in 2008. Left-wing and anarchist terrorism is increasing in the EU. Extremists, in particular animal rights extremists, have used methods similar to those of terrorists. Thus, the threat from terrorism persists in the European Union.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Member States and Eurojust for their continuing contributions of quantitative and qualitative data, which are essential to the annual production of the TE-SAT. I would also like to express my gratitude to Colombia, Croatia, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America for their initial contributions.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all members of the Advisory Board, consisting of the 'Troika' (EU Council Presidencies of Sweden, Spain and Belgium), Eurojust, the EU Situation Centre (EU SITCEN) and the representative of the Heads of Europol National Units, for their support throughout the year and their valuable contributions to the 2010 edition of the TE-SAT.

Rob Wainwright
Director

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Union (EU) Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) contains basic facts and figures regarding terrorist attacks, arrests and activities in the EU. The TE-SAT is based mainly on information contributed by EU Member States resulting from criminal investigations into terrorist offences. Terrorism and related phenomena in the EU are summarised in terms of both quantity and quality, and trends are identified for the period 2007 to 2009.

The Member States of the EU continue to be exposed to a serious threat from Islamist, ethno-nationalist and separatist, as well as from left-wing and anarchist terrorism. However, the overall number of terrorist attacks in all Member States in 2009, excluding the United Kingdom (UK), decreased by 33 % compared to 2008 and is almost half of the number of attacks reported in 2007. For 2009, six Member States reported a total of 294 failed, foiled or successfully perpetrated terrorist attacks, while an additional 124 attacks in Northern Ireland were reported by the UK. Thirteen Member States, excluding the UK, arrested a total of 587 individuals on suspicion of offences related to terrorism, a figure which marks a decrease of 22 % in comparison to 2008 and of about 30 % to 2007. The majority of arrests were carried out on suspicion of membership of a terrorist organisation. Other arrests were made for attack-related offences which include the preparation of attacks, propaganda, financing of terrorism and facilitation.

Substantial amounts of money are transferred, using a variety of means, from Europe to conflict areas in which terrorist groups are active. In relation to Islamist terrorism, financing of terrorism and membership of a terrorist organisation remain the most common reasons for arrests.

Many terrorist or extremist organisations are sup-

ported by active youth branches. These are of particular concern to some Member States as potential targets for radicalisation and recruitment to terrorist activities.

The internet and communication tools that were developed for use over the web, such as social networking sites and instant messaging programmes, are used by terrorist and extremist organisations to promote their agenda, organise campaigns, collect information on future targets, claim attacks, inform other members of the group, and even recruit with greater ease. A terrorist group's ability to communicate and propagate its views is crucial for financing and recruitment.

The number of women arrested for terrorism-related offences remains low. Women accounted for 15 % of suspects arrested in 2009, compared to 10 % in 2007. The majority of these arrests were related to separatist terrorism.

In 2009, a total of 125 court decisions related to terrorism offences took place in 11 Member States. This involved 391 individuals and one non-governmental organisation (NGO). The majority of court decisions pronounced in 2009 were related to separatist terrorism, in contrast to 2008 when the majority related to Islamist terrorism. The percentage of acquittals decreased from 23 % in 2008 to 17 % in 2009. Once more, since 2008, there has been an increase in the number of individuals tried. Of the 391 defendants tried in 2009, 43, i.e. almost 11 %, were women, the majority of whom (29) were tried for offences related to separatist terrorism. Five of the 43 female defendants were acquitted.

Islamist terrorism is still perceived as the biggest threat to most Member States, despite the fact that only one Islamist terrorist attack - a bomb attack in

Italy - took place in the EU in 2009. Islamist terrorists have threatened EU Member States with perpetrating attacks aiming at indiscriminate mass casualties. The number of arrests relating to Islamist terrorism (110) decreased by 41 % compared to 2008, which continues the trend of a steady decrease since 2006. The threat emanating from Islamist terrorism inside the EU is influenced, to a certain extent, by developments in conflict zones and politically unstable countries such as Afghanistan, the Afghanistan/Pakistan border area, Iraq, Somalia and Yemen. At the same time, the EU is used as a platform to prepare and initiate terrorist attacks elsewhere in the world.

Separatist terrorism continues to be the type of terrorism which affects the EU most in terms of the number of attacks carried out. This type includes Basque separatist terrorism in Spain and France, and Corsican separatist terrorism in France. Although, in 2009, the total number of separatist terrorist attacks decreased by 40 % compared to 2008, the number of fatalities increased from four to six. The Basque separatist terrorist organisation ETA (*Euskadi ta Askatasuna*) killed three police officers. Ninety per cent of the 237 attacks that were claimed or attributed to separatist terrorist organisations in France (89) and Spain (148) were successfully executed. Portugal appears to be used for purposes of logistical support by ETA. In Spain, *Batasuna* and other political parties, such as ANV (*Acción Nacionalista Vasca*) and PCTV (*Partido Comunista de las Tierras Vascas*), have been classified as terrorist organisations since 15 June 2009. In the UK, Irish Republican and Loyalist groups in Northern Ireland, principally the RIRA (Real Irish Republican Army) and the CIRA (Continuity Irish Republican Army), increased the number of terrorist attacks and killed two soldiers and one police officer.

In 2009, the total number of left-wing and anarchist

terrorist attacks in the EU increased by 43 % compared to 2008 and more than doubled since 2007. Left-wing and anarchist groups were responsible for 40 attacks while 29 individuals were arrested in 2009 in a total of six Member States. In Greece, *Epanastatikos Agonas* continued its violent actions and claimed responsibility for an attack on police officers, which caused serious injuries to one officer. *Sekta Epanastaton*, a newly-active organisation in Greece, claimed another attack which killed a police officer.

Hungary reported four right-wing terrorist attacks in 2009. All other Member States reported right-wing criminal activities as extremism. Individuals motivated by extreme right-wing views who act alone continue to pose a threat.

Two single-issue terrorist attacks were reported in 2009. The illegal activities of single-issue extremism continue to be dominated by Animal Rights Extremism (ARE) activists, whose campaign has intensified with criminal acts perpetrated across Europe. Some violent ARE attacks in 2009 used *modi operandi* similar to those used by terrorists, e.g. improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and improvised incendiary devices (IIDs).

3. TE-SAT 2010: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) was established in the aftermath of the 11 September 2001 attacks in the United States of America (USA), as a reporting mechanism from the Terrorism Working Party (TWP) of the Council of the EU to the European Parliament. The contents of the TE-SAT reports are based on information supplied by EU Member States, some third states, and information drawn from open sources.

In accordance with ENFOPOL 65 (8196/2/06), the TE-SAT is produced annually to provide an overview of the phenomenon of terrorism in the EU from a law enforcement perspective. It seeks to establish basic facts and figures regarding terrorist attacks and arrests in the EU. The report also aims to present trends that can be deduced from the information available.

The TE-SAT is a situation report which describes and analyses the outward manifestations of terrorism, i.e. terrorist attacks and activities. It neither attempts to analyse the root causes of terrorism nor assess the threat posed by terrorism. Furthermore, the TE-SAT does not assess the impact or effectiveness of counter-terrorism policies and law enforcement measures taken, despite the fact they form an important part of the phenomenon.

The current methodology for producing the report was developed by Europol in 2006 in consultation with the Advisory Board, which at the time included representatives of the Finnish and German Presidencies of the EU Council. It was endorsed by the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council on 1 and 2 June 2006. This edition of the TE-SAT has been produced by Europol in accordance with the 2010 Advisory Board, composed of representatives of the present, past and future EU Presidencies, i.e. Spain, Sweden and Belgium (the 'Troika'), along with the EU

Situation Centre (EU SITCEN),¹ the representative of the Heads of Europol National Units, Eurojust and Europol.

The TE-SAT is an unclassified document and does not contain confidential information or information that could jeopardise ongoing investigations.

For the preparation of this report, Europol collected qualitative and quantitative data on terrorist offences in the EU and data on arrests of individuals on suspicion of involvement in those offences, provided or confirmed by Member States. Similar data was collected, when available, of offences in which EU interests were affected outside the EU. Eurojust contributed data on convictions and penalties for terrorist offences in EU Member States.

Included as 'arrests' are those judicial arrests warranted by a prosecutor or investigating judge, whereby a person is detained for questioning on suspicion of committing a criminal offence for which detention is permitted by national law. The fact that the person may subsequently be provisionally released or placed under house arrest does not impact on the calculation of the number of arrests.

'Terrorist offences' have been defined as indicated in Article 1 of the Council Framework Decision on combating terrorism of 13 June 2002 (2002/475/JHA), which all Member States have implemented in their national legislation.² This Framework Decision specifies that terrorist offences are intentional acts which, given their nature or context, may seriously damage a country or an international organisation when committed with the aim of:

- seriously intimidating a population; or
- unduly compelling a government or international organisation to perform or abstain from performing an act; or

¹ The EU SITCEN provides early warning, situational awareness and intelligence analysis to assist policy development in the areas of the CFSP (Common Foreign and Security Policy), the CSDP (Common Security and Defence Policy) and counter terrorism. Focus lies on sensitive geographical areas, terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The EU SITCEN functions under the authority of Catherine Ashton, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

² See Annex 3.

- seriously destabilising or destroying the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country or international organisation.³

In cases where the wording of Article 1 of the Framework Decision leaves room for interpretation, the TE-SAT 2010 respects the Member States' definitions of terrorist offences on their territories. At times, it can be difficult to assess whether a criminal event qualifies as an act of 'terrorism' or as an act of 'extremism'. Contrary to terrorism, not all forms of extremism sanction the use of violence. Nevertheless, extremism as a phenomenon may be related to terrorism and exhibit similar *modi operandi*. Therefore, the TE-SAT 2010 mentions criminal acts with the potential to seriously destabilise or destroy the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country, when they were reported by the Member States as extremism, in an effort to provide a clearer picture of the phenomenon and its relation to terrorism. However, these cases were not considered in the statistical data of this report, which exclusively reflects incidents reported as terrorism by Member States. In contrast to previous years, Member States reported details on extremism, a fact which is reflected in the TE-SAT 2010.

3.1. TYPES OF TERRORISM

The TE-SAT categorises terrorist organisations according to their source of motivation. However, many groups have a mixture of motivating ideologies, although usually one ideology or motivation dominates. The choice of categories used in the TE-SAT reflects the current situation in the EU, as reported by Member States. The categories are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

Islamist terrorism is perpetrated by individuals, groups,

networks or organisations which evoke a certain interpretation of Islam to justify their actions.

Ethno-nationalist and separatist terrorist groups, such as ETA (*Euskadi ta Askatasuna*) and PKK/KONGRA-GEL (*Partiya Karkeren Kurdistan*)⁴ seek international recognition and political self-determination. They are motivated by nationalism, ethnicity and/or religion.

Left-wing terrorist groups, such as *Epanastatikos Agonas*, seek to change the entire political, social and economic system of a state according to an extremist left-wing model. Their ideology is often Marxist-Leninist. The agenda of anarchist terrorist groups is usually revolutionary, anti-capitalist and anti-authoritarian. Not all Member States distinguish between activities of left-wing and anarchist terrorist groups in their contributions. For this reason, both categories are discussed in the same chapter of this report.

Right-wing terrorist groups seek to change the entire political, social and economic system following an extremist right-wing model. The ideological roots of European right-wing extremism and terrorism can usually be traced back to National Socialism.

Single-issue terrorism is violence committed with the desire to change a specific policy or practice within a target society. The term is generally used to describe animal rights and environmentalist terrorist groups.

3.2. DATA COLLECTION

Although the UK provided Europol with quantitative data regarding terrorist attacks and qualitative data regarding terrorist activities, the quantitative data is not included in

³ Article 1 of the Framework Decision includes a list of criminal acts, which has not been printed here due to lack of space.

⁴ The names of groups/organizations will be in their original language in the body of this document. For translations and an explanation of acronyms, please see Annex 1.

the figures on attacks because of differences in the statistical criteria applied.⁵ All quantitative comparisons made to previous years in this TE-SAT exclude UK data.

The EU Council Decision on the exchange of information and cooperation concerning terrorist offences of 20 September 2005 (2005/671/JHA) obliges Member States to collect all relevant information concerning and resulting from criminal investigations conducted by their law enforcement authorities with respect to terrorist offences and sets out the conditions under which this information should be sent to Europol. Europol processed the data and the result was cross-checked with the Member States and, in case of divergences or gaps, was corrected and complemented, and then validated by the Member States.

Eurojust also collected data on the basis of the aforementioned EU Council Decision, according to which, the Member States are equally obliged to collect all relevant information concerning prosecutions and convictions for terrorist offences and send the data to Eurojust. Eurojust cross-checked the collected data with the Member States and, in case of divergences or gaps, this data was also corrected, complemented and then validated. If convictions that took place in 2009 were appealed, but were concluded before the end of the year, Eurojust counted the decisions as one. The arrests and convictions may be related to terrorist offences that took place before 2009 and, consequently, may not be related to activities and attacks referred to in the TE-SAT 2010.⁶

Ten Member States reported information on concluded trials to Eurojust: Austria, Denmark, France, Ger-

many, the Republic of Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

With the approval of the TE-SAT Advisory Board, neighbouring countries of the EU with a Liaison Bureau at Europol, and other non-EU States with which Europol has signed cooperation agreements, were approached to provide qualitative data for the TE-SAT 2010 when their information could shed light on a certain situation or phenomenon in the EU. Colombia, Croatia, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America reported information relevant to the security situation in the EU.

3.3. DATA ANALYSIS

The TE-SAT is both a situation and a trend report. A trend can be defined as 'a general tendency in the way a situation is changing or developing'. The TE-SAT 2010 presents trend analysis for the period 2007 to 2009.

Although Member States continue to report on terrorist attacks and arrests with varying degrees of depth, it can generally be stated that the data contributed by the Member States for 2009 was of high quality. The analysis of the quantitative data was, however, affected by the fact that the UK's official statistics do not use the same methodology as that of Europol and other Member States.

Gaps in the data collected by Europol may be due to the fact that the investigations into the terrorist attacks or activities in question are still ongoing. In addition, a number of criminal offences committed in support of terrorist activities are not systematically prosecuted under terrorism legislation.

⁵ The UK publishes a fully detailed breakdown of statistics related to persons arrested in connection with terrorism investigations, but they are not included in the TE-SAT due to differences in criteria. However, the statistics for Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) can be found at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfsog/hosbi809.pdf> and for Northern Ireland at http://www.pni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_security_situation_and_public_order_statistics.htm

⁶ The UK did provide Eurojust with statistics on convictions for terrorist offences.

4. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE EU IN 2009

- In 2009, 294 terrorist attacks were carried out in six Member States and 587 individuals were arrested for terrorism-related offences in thirteen Member States.
- The majority of suspects were arrested on suspicion of membership of a terrorist organisation.
- In 2009, 391 individuals and one NGO were tried on terrorism charges in the Member States, resulting in a total of 125 court decisions.

The TE-SAT provides an overview for each of the different types of terrorism, as well as extremism linked to that type of terrorism, if it is of added value. This general overview shows the differences and similarities between these types. A complete overview of the number of terrorist attacks and arrests for terrorism-related offences per Member State, between 2007 and 2009, can be found in Annexes 4 and 5.

4.1. TERRORIST ATTACKS AND ARRESTED SUSPECTS

In 2009, six Member States reported 294 failed, foiled or successfully executed attacks. Furthermore, an additional 124 attacks were carried out in Northern Ireland.⁸

The number of attacks decreased by 33 % in comparison to 2008 and is almost half the number of attacks carried out in 2007.

In 2009, there was only one Islamist terrorist attack, directed at a military target in Italy.

Separatist terrorist organisations were responsible for 237 attacks; all of which were carried out in France and Spain. The decreasing trend in the number of separatist attacks, already noticeable in 2008, continued in 2009.

Greece, Italy and Spain reported 40 attacks by left-wing and anarchist terrorists.

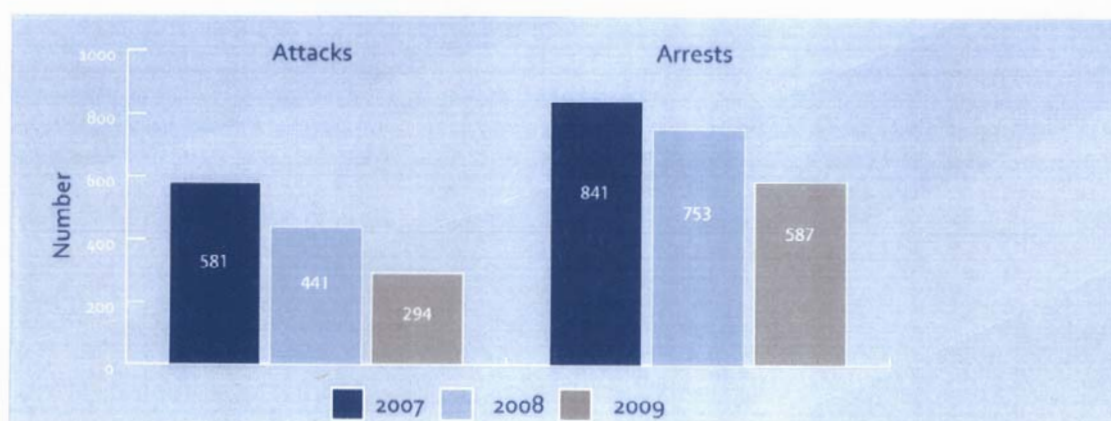


Figure 1: Number of failed, foiled or successful attacks and number of arrested suspects, 2007-2009.⁷

⁷ See footnote 5.

⁸ In line with the methodology, these attacks are not included in the statistics.

Member State	Islamist	Separatist	Left-wing	Right-wing	Single-issue	Not specified	Total 2009
Austria	0	0	0	0	1	5	6
France	0	89	0	0	1	5	95
Greece	0	0	15	0	0	0	15
Hungary	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
Italy	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
Spain	0	148	23	0	0	0	171
Total	1	237	40	4	2	10	294

Figure 2: Number of failed, foiled or successfully executed attacks in 2009 per Member State and per affiliation.⁹

Member State	Islamist	Separatist	Left-wing	Right-wing	Single-issue	Not specified	Total 2009
Austria	2	0	0	0	0	6	8
Belgium	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Bulgaria	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
France	37	255	11	6	1	5	315
Germany	4	0	1	0	0	0	5
Greece	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Hungary	0	0	0	16	0	0	16
Ireland (Republic of)	0	31	0	0	0	0	31
Italy	20	0	9	0	0	0	29
Lithuania	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
The Netherlands	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Spain	40	127	2	0	0	0	169
Total	110	413	29	22	2	11	587

Figure 3: Number of arrested suspects in 2009 per Member State and per affiliation.¹⁰

Hungary reported four right-wing attacks; Austria and France each reported one single-issue attack.

The number of reported casualties and fatalities remains limited; however, seven government officials

⁹ See footnote 5.

¹⁰ See footnote 5.

(five police officers and two soldiers) were killed in separatist, left-wing and anarchist terrorist attacks in Greece, Spain and the UK.¹¹

In 2009, 587 individuals were arrested in 13 Member States for terrorism-related offences. In comparison to 2008, the total number of arrests in Member States decreased by 22 %; in comparison to 2007, the number of arrests decreased by 30 %.¹²

Eight Member States reported 110 arrests related to Islamist terrorism in comparison to 187 arrests reported by 10 Member States in 2008.

The majority of the individuals were arrested for offences related to separatism.

In 2009, 29 individuals were arrested for left-wing and anarchist terrorist offences. Twenty-two individuals were arrested in relation to right-wing terrorism and two individuals were arrested for single-issue terrorist offences.

The majority of arrests were made on suspicion of membership of a terrorist organisation. Almost 30 % of the arrests were related to attacks and 17 % to the financing of terrorism. Other activities of which the suspects were accused include propaganda and facilitation.

The average age of the arrested suspects is 34 years. As in previous years, almost 40 % of the arrested suspects are younger than 30. Suspects arrested for Islamist terrorism are, on average, older than those arrested for separatist terrorism.

Although the number of women arrested for terrorism-related offences remains low, there is a small increase in comparison to previous years. 15 % of the arrested suspects were women, compared to 10 % in 2007. The majority of these arrests were related to separatist terrorism. In Lithuania, a woman was arrested for the preparation of a suicide terrorist attack.¹³

4.2. TERRORIST AND EXTREMIST ACTIVITIES

Financing

No terrorist or extremist activities can take place without the availability of financial resources. It has been established that the cost of terrorist attacks is often very low and can easily be covered; however, all organisations need funds for their daily expenses, including salaries, training, logistics, websites, travel and other expenses.

Illegal sources for the financing of terrorism cover a wide range of criminal activities including fraud, counterfeit products, drugs smuggling, kidnapping, trafficking of human beings, and extortion.

Alongside criminal activities, funds can also be derived from legitimate sources. Charitable organisations, NGOs and media outlets continue to be misused by individuals who misappropriate voluntary contributions destined for genuine purposes in order to fund terrorist activities. Recent research at Europol indicates that women are often involved in the misuse of funds derived from charitable organisations.

¹¹ Contribution to the TE-SAT 2010: Greece, Spain, UK.

¹² See footnote 5.

¹³ Contribution to the TE-SAT 2010: Lithuania.

Information indicates that various means are used to transfer substantial amounts of money from Europe to conflict areas where terrorist groups are active.

Terrorist organisations such as ETA, the PKK/KONGRA-GEL and the DHKP-C (*Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi/Cephesi*), collect funds by methods that include extortion or taxation campaigns. Publications of these organisations are sold and raffles are organised for fundraising.¹⁴

In November 2009, 17 Algerians were detained by Italian authorities and later charged with a variety of crimes, including forgery of documents, robberies and thefts, providing an estimated turnover of one million euros in three years. The money was used to finance AQIM (*al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb*).¹⁵

Youth organisations

Many terrorist or extremist organisations have an active supporting youth branch. These branches have a significant potential for violence, which may be exploited by terrorist organisations for radicalisation, recruitment and the financing of terrorist activities and are attractive to, and approachable by, young people. The social alienation and economic deprivation of youngsters play into the hands of terrorist and extremist organisations interested in recruiting them.

SEGI is linked to ETA and has long been involved in the execution of attacks in Spain. *Komalen Ciwan*, the youth organisation of the PKK/KONGRA-GEL, is

active in protests in the EU.¹⁶ Recent developments in Northern Ireland show that youngsters linked to CIRA (Continuity Irish Republican Army) have begun a new campaign and plan to attack military targets.

Some Member States reported that marginalised Somali youth are of particular concern as a potential target for radicalisation and recruitment to terrorist activities. It has to be noted that their travel to Somalia to join the armed struggle against the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), or to visit training camps, do not always depend on organised radicalisation or recruitment – they can also be self-directed and occur without any clear indications.¹⁷

Internet

New and low-cost communication tools such as social networking sites and instant messaging programmes are used by terrorist and extremist organisations for various reasons: to promote their agenda or organise promotion campaigns; to collect information on future targets; to claim attacks; to inform other members of the group, and even recruit with great ease.¹⁸ These modern ways of communication are complementing traditional means, such as telephone and personal contacts. A terrorist group's ability to produce convincing propaganda is crucial for financing and recruitment.

Some Member States reported that radicalisation and recruitment in the EU increasingly take place over the internet and, simultaneously, via traditional communication means.¹⁹ In October 2009, a 20-year-

¹⁴ Contribution to the TE-SAT 2010: Belgium, Spain, Turkey

¹⁵ Contribution to the TE-SAT 2010: Italy.

¹⁶ Contribution to the TE-SAT 2010: Germany, Turkey

¹⁷ Contribution to the TE-SAT 2010: Finland.

¹⁸ Contribution to the TE-SAT 2010: Belgium, Greece, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Spain, UK.

¹⁹ Contribution to the TE-SAT 2010: Belgium.

old Lithuanian woman was arrested before she travelled to Russia to commit a suicide attack there. She had converted to Islam and was self-radicalised via the internet.²⁰

The development of social networking websites allows extremist and terrorist groups to retrieve information on people, their families and locations to a degree previously unimaginable.²¹

Many terrorists try to counter government-controlled sources of information and media reporting by propagating an alternative interpretation of events which justifies their violent actions or denies acts for which they are blamed.

In 2009, additional prominent websites advocating Islamist terrorism developed new sections in Western languages. The increased use of languages other than Arabic in propaganda audios and videos is also pointing to the presence of foreigners, including EU nationals or residents, in conflict areas.

4.3. CONVICTIONS AND PENALTIES

In 2009, there were 125 court decisions reported in 11 Member States, as opposed to 187 court decisions in 10 Member States for 2008. Greece reported one court decision, in which three defendants were acquitted.²²

Member State	2007	2008	2009
Austria	0	0	2
Belgium	5	12	0
Denmark	11	16	10
France	54	75	76
Germany	7	10	7
Ireland (Republic of)	6	9	15
Italy	47	25	24
The Netherlands	8	12	2
Spain	231	141	217
Sweden	0	1	1
UK	33	59	37
Total	402	360	391

Figure 4: Number of individuals tried in 2009 for terrorism charges per Member State.²³

²⁰ Contribution to the TE-SAT 2010: Lithuania.

²¹ Source: Europol 2009, internal report.

²² This information is not included in any of the figures or text of this section.

²³ According to the information provided by the Spanish national authorities, five persons received three imprisonment sentences in three different court decisions and six persons were tried twice for terrorist offences in two different decisions. The individuals have been counted only once in figure 4, whereas in figure 5 the number of convictions/acquittals is higher due to the double or triple sentencing.

In 2009, 391 individuals were tried on terrorism charges in 10 Member States, an increase compared to 2008. In addition, one organisation was brought to trial in 2009 on charges of financing terrorism in France. Of the 391 individuals, 43 were women. The majority of the women (29) were tried for offences related to separatist terrorism.

The highest number of individuals tried for terrorism charges in 2009 was reported by Spain. In the past three years, France and Germany saw a similar number of individuals brought before court; Italy, the Netherlands, and the UK saw a steady decrease, whereas Austria reported a procedure on terrorism charges for the first time.

A large trial took place in France against 22 LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) members, most

of them arrested in 2007,²⁴ and the organisation CCTF (*Comité Coordination Tamoul France*). They were prosecuted for funding terrorism in Sri Lanka, and sentenced to up to seven years' imprisonment. Only one of the individuals was acquitted. The court also ordered the dissolution of the CCTF, viewed as the 'legal arm' of the LTTE. This judgement is now under appeal.

In another LTTE-related trial in the UK, the alleged leader of the United Tamil Organisation in Britain, before it became outlawed in 2001, was convicted of supplying bomb-making equipment to the LTTE and receiving documents for the purpose of terrorism. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. At the time when the offences were committed, the Tamil Tigers were not banned in the UK.

Member State	Islamist	Left wing	Right wing	Separatist	Not specified	Total
Austria	2					2
Denmark	3				7	10
France	18			59		77
Germany	3	3		1		7
Ireland (republic of)				15		15
Italy	3	21				24
The Netherlands	2					2
Spain	25	15		190	3	233
Sweden	1					1
UK	32		1	3	1	37
Total	89	39	1	268	11	408

Figure 5: Number of convictions/acquittals for terrorism charges in 2009, per Member State and per affiliation.²⁵

²⁴ TE-SAT 2008, page 33.

²⁵ Some cases are pending appeal, such as the LTTE judgement in France. The court decision against the organisation CCTF has been included in figures 5 and 6.