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## EP Hearing - The current challenges of fighting terrorism and serious crime

Brussels (European Parliament, Committee LIBE), 30.05.2017



In order to make an assessment of the situation regarding terrorism and related crime, this hearing was organised in the European Parliament, with the participation of the various European institutions involved in the fight against terrorism and serious crime as well as representatives from national member states.

On the part of Europol, Frontex, the European Commission, the United Nations as well as national member states, information was given on the activities undertaken in this respect.

Key issues are the protection of the EU's external borders, fight against cybercrime, removal of online terrorist propaganda, observation of radicalised persons, prevention through education, interoperability of information systems, examination of ways terrorism is financed, adequate training of staff, role played by migration.

Although ensuring 100 % security is not achievable, the various institutions and national authorities are steadily improving their ways to fight against terrorist threats and organised crime.

Several speakers emphasised the need for increasing the efforts in the field of the interoperability. The rapid exchange of information is essential.

Regarding the new directive which has been implemented for the control of every person entering and leaving the European Union, against databases of e.g. the SIS (Schengen Information System), criticism was expressed by an MEP about the difficult situation thus created. Several countries have already asked for a derogation from this system. The representative from Frontex however answered that member states have already reported on the possibility to identify criminals in this way and, so, the new regulation definitely has an added value. Besides, it is now EU law. Member states have to clearly motivate why they ask for a derogation.

(The Eurofedop secretariat followed this hearing. Members may want to know that the activities of the European Parliament Committees can be followed in real time – with translation in different languages – on the Internet.)