



# EU actions to counter Da'esh

The European Union is fully committed to fighting terrorism, both inside and outside the European territory, with its prime objective being to eradicate Da'esh and other terrorist groups. Our support is based on a criminal-justice approach, in full compliance with international law, fundamental values and international human-rights standards.

Following the adoption of the [EU Regional Strategy for Syria and Iraq, as well as the ISIL/Da'esh threat](#), reviewed in May 2016, the EU has stepped up its bilateral and multilateral engagement with international partners, including the United Nations (UN), the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), and the Global Coalition against Da'esh. The common aim is to stem the spread of Foreign Terrorist Fighters, stabilise areas liberated from Da'esh, squeeze Da'esh finances and counter Da'esh messages. Combatting Da'esh in the long-term requires addressing the political and socio-economic root causes that have facilitated the spread of terrorism.

## Specific EU actions in counterterrorism

Dedicated **counterterrorism structures** have been set up within the EU institutions and across the global network of EU Delegations, in view of enhancing and coordinating the fight against terrorism and against Da'esh in particular. **Counterterrorism experts** have been deployed to key EU delegations, to liaise with local authorities and contribute to joint counterterrorism efforts.

Concrete **Counterterrorism Action Plans** were finalised with Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia, whilst Counterterrorism Action Plans with Israel and Egypt are close to finalisation. In coordination with the UN and the Global Coalition against Da'esh, the EU is engaging in substantial work in counterterrorism with Iraq that addresses the Iraqi intelligence community directly. The total amount of EU **funding for projects aimed**

**at Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE)** today is **€300M**. The focus of such projects is primarily on the Middle East and North Africa, but the Western Balkans, Turkey, Central Asia and Pakistan also fall within the geographical scope.

The EU works with a range of actors including NGOs, local municipalities and religious organisations to provide alternative pathways and to **research** the drivers behind radicalisation; it also provides support to security agencies with an eye to enhancing operational capabilities in fields such as integrated border management and counterterrorism.

**Preventing the diversion of arms and dual-use goods** to terrorists is a guiding principle of the EU's export-control rules. To identify diversion, the EU supports the tracking of supplies of arms and bomb-making materials to terrorist organisations, including Da'esh.

The EU transposed into binding EU law **UN Security Council Resolution 2253/2015**, which prohibits making economic resources available to Da'esh. This prohibition applies to both direct and indirect trade in oil.

The EU has adopted a broad range of measures that **support the Global Coalition** in its fight against Da'esh, **including in Iraq and Syria**, through non-military means. The EU is member of four of the Coalition's working groups (on foreign terrorist fighters, Anti-Money Laundering / Counter-financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), Communications and Stabilization). Existing projects of the Global Coalition Communication Cell and those of the EU are being synergised, e.g. in Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia.

## IRAQ

The **stabilisation of liberated areas in Iraq** has been a major priority for the EU. As co-chair of the Global Coalition's sub-working group on explosive

hazards mitigation, the EU has provided **EUR 6.3M** to enable the return to Iraq of the United Nations Mine Actions Service (UNMAS). The EU, together with UNMAS and Global Coalition partners, has been instrumental in establishing an integrated and blended approach to the “demining” challenge in Iraq and in managing donor coordination. These efforts have leveraged contributions from all donors of over **€200M** to explosive hazard mitigation in Iraq. The EU has also provided **€14M** to the UN Development Programme’s Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilisation (FFIS),

Support to the **security sector and the rule of law are essential components of the EU’s contribution to the stabilisation of Iraq. €16 million** are being dedicated to projects such as police training (conducted by the Italian Carabinieri) in areas liberated from Da’esh, the improvement of Iraqi counterterrorism efforts, including the interoperability of Iraqi security services, the development of a human-rights compliant Iraqi counter terrorism strategy and other legislative and administrative measures.

The EU contributes to ongoing stabilisation efforts in Iraq by helping to reduce tensions between Internally Displaced Persons and host communities through **€3.5M**. In view of achieving long-term stability in Iraq, the EU also supports national and community **reconciliation** with **€14.5M**, and the **local government** with **€11.5M**.

The EU is at the forefront of the humanitarian response in Iraq to support the victims of the conflict, having delivered €287M in humanitarian aid between 2014 and 2016, and having already announced €42M for 2017.

In 2017, the EU’s overall support to Iraq will compile at least €211M, €62M for the resilience needs of displaced persons and €107M focusing on immediate crisis response and stabilisation needs, as well as on longer term development in response to the crisis.

## **SYRIA**

The primary objective of the European Union in Syria is to reach an end to the conflict and decisively defeat Da’esh and other terrorist organisations. This can only be achieved through a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned [political transition](#), which would bring lasting peace to the country and enable Syrians to return to their homes in safe conditions and contribute to the reconstruction of the country.

Since the beginning of the conflict, the European Union has allocated more than **€930M** in assistance to the Syrian population living inside Syria, including Internally Displaced persons and their host

communities, in particular **€611.1M** to cover for humanitarian needs.

In addition to humanitarian funds, an amount of **€234M** has been provided for actions within Syria in various sectors, such as basic service delivery, local governance and support to livelihoods. This funding aims at maintaining Syrian human capital, and enhancing the capacities of local civilian institutions to deliver basic services (Education, health, urban services, etc) to the population. It thus notably contributes to the stabilisation of areas under the control of Syrian opposition and prevents the expansion of radical groups such as Da’esh.

To promote resilience and stabilisation **€13.7M have also been allocated** to support Syrian civil society and human-rights organisations, including for human rights violation documentation, support to independent media, transitional justice and accountability, and capacity development.

The EU strongly stands in for transitional justice and accountability for all serious human rights abuses and violations of International Humanitarian Law, including any which may constitute a war crime committed in Syria by all parties, including Da’esh. The EU supports various projects, for example:

**More than €65.2M aim at** supporting dialogue initiatives, transitional justice and countering violent extremism, as well as €2M to support political dialogue between parties to the armed conflict.

**A project of €2.5M is in place** to promote the use of mass-media programming and platforms to build resilience and social cohesion to counter violent conflict and radicalisation across all sections of Syrian society, as well as **€1M project to promote social cohesion and moderate voices in Syria.**

**€1.5M have been provided** to support the Commission for International Justice and Accountability, contributing to International Security and Justice in Syria and the global pursuit of justice for the victims of war, to investigate allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the belligerent parties inside Syria. Also, in 2017 the EU will support **the International Commission on Missing Persons** to launch a process of collecting data on missing persons from Syria.

**To prepare** for transition in post-conflict Syria and build resilient and stable institutions, **€8.8M** intend to cover fields such as local administration, gender equality, media, transitional justice, security sector reform and urban planning.