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TE-SAT report

The European Union (EU) Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2022 provides a situational overview of the terrorism landscape in 2021. The TE-SAT 2022 presents figures, major developments and trends pertaining to the terrorism situation in the EU, based on verified qualitative and quantitative data provided by Member States on terrorist attacks, arrests and court decisions issued for terrorist offences.

It confirms that lone actors associated with jihadist and right-wing violent extremism remain the biggest threat associated with potential terrorist and violent extremist attacks in the EU (France experienced the highest number of attacks (5), followed by Germany (3) and Sweden (2). Austria, Denmark, Hungary, Belgium and Spain reported one attack each). The online environment plays a key role in this as it facilitates (self-) radicalisation and the spread of terrorist propaganda. Europol has significantly scaled up its capabilities in identifying terrorist and violent extremist content, and is working with online providers to remove it. The EU Internet Referral Unit (EU IRU), based at Europol's European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC), plays a key role in this domain and is promoting new and innovative approaches to technological challenges.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on terrorism was particularly visible in terms of shaping extremist narratives. This has made some individuals more vulnerable to radicalisation and recruitment into terrorism and extremism. Social isolation and more time spent online have exacerbated the risks posed by violent extremist propaganda and terrorist content, particularly among younger people and minors. The societal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will stay with us for some time and we must remain vigilant about some of the long-term challenges that follow on from this unprecedented crisis.

Undoubtedly, the geopolitical shifts and the fallout from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine will have a lasting impact on the EU's security for years to come. This war has already attracted several radicalised individuals from Member States who have joined the fight on both sides. Moreover, the ongoing war is likely to spark violent extremist reactions and mobilisation, particularly in the online domain. We must continue to closely monitor these developments while taking heed of the lessons learnt in the past in dealing with foreign fighters returning from battlefields in the Middle East.

The full report can be downloaded here:

https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Tesat_Report_2022_0.pdf