

Guenther Sablattnig

Adviser to the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator

# **EU Action in CVE and Transnational Organized Crime**

12<sup>th</sup> CABSI Conference:Cross-border Cooperation in Central Asia27-28 April 2016, Bishkek

## **Organizational Setting**

- > EU Member States
- > Commission (DG HOME, DEVCO, NEAR, ...)
- > EEAS
- > EU Agencies (ECTC, Eurojust, Frontex, ...)

## **EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator**

(Council Secretariat; since 2004)

- > Coordinates and maintains overview (internal/external)
- Regular reporting to JHA Ministers
- Support to HRVP Mogherini (external CT aspects)



## Challenges and Threats for EU

- > DAESH is under increasing pressure
- > AQ & affiliates still active
- > Foreign terrorist fighters / Returnees
- Radicalization (Islamist / right wing / on the internet)
- External borders / Schengen
- → Links to transnational, cross-border crime!



## **Possible Consequences**

- Further attacks outside the caliphate (in Europe, MENA, Turkey etc.)
- > Increased returns of FTF to Europe
- DAESH moving to Libya



#### **Terrorist Links to Crime**

- Information sharing
  - Terrorists might have criminal background
- > External borders
  - TE financing through smuggling (drugs, people, CBRN material, firearms, ...)
  - Terrorists might use migration routes
- > TE Financing through criminal activities
- > Firearms
  - TE attacks with illegal firearms
- Aviation Security
  - Corrupt airport staff might help terrorists



## **EU Action (Internal / External – 1)**

- > Enhanced information sharing / data quality
  - Europol, Interpol, SIS II, Prüm, ...
- > External borders
  - Systematic checks (EU citizens, third country nationals, irregular migrants)
- > TE Financing through criminal activities
  - Cooperation between FIUs, ...
  - COM Action Plan (new 2 Feb. 2016)
  - AML dir. to be implemented by end 2016



# **EU Action (Internal / External – 2)**

#### > Firearms

- Firearms directive (under negotiation)
- COM Action Plan (2 Dec. 2015)
- Making use of Europol (OAP Firearms)
- Cooperation with Western Balkans, MENA

## Aviation Security

- COM Aviation Strategy for Europe (Dec. 2015)
- COM project on civil aviation security for Africa and Arabian Peninsula (CASE; EUR 7.5 mio.)
- Strategic cooperation (ICAO, UN, EU)
- Bilateral / multilateral initiatives



## **Cooperation with Central Asia**

- ➤ EU-CA High Level Security Dialogues (last: March 2015 / next: poss. May 2016)
- > EU-Central Asia CT Seminar (March 2015)
- ➤ EU-funded project: Implementation of UN Global CT Strategy in Central Asia (recent workshop on recognizing and responding to radicalization, 29-31 March 2016, Almaty)



### **Questions?**

### **National level:**

How do border guards and customs proceed if they detect suspicious travel and goods?

## **Regional level:**

- How is operational information exchange organized among CA authorities?
  - → border guards, police, customs, intelligence services

## **Cooperation EU – Central Asia:**

Suggestions for enhancing CT cooperation with the EU?



# Guenther Sablattnig Adviser to the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator <a href="mailto:guenther.sablattnig@consilium.europa.eu">guenther.sablattnig@consilium.europa.eu</a>

