

## THE EVOLUTION AND ESCALATION OF THE HYBRID TERRORIST THREAT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The evolution and escalation of contemporary terrorism in select regions of the world, such as Africa and the Middle East, is also evident in the European Union.<sup>1</sup> This issue has recently been addressed in the report *Russia's Crime-Terror Nexus: Criminality as a Tool of Hybrid Warfare in Europe* (Russia's, 2025), published on September 30, 2025, by GLOBSEC and the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT). The report presents studies showing that at least 110 Russia-related hybrid incidents targeting various European countries, primarily Poland and France, have been identified since 2022. These incidents demonstrate the evolution and escalation of terrorism and its increasingly strong links to criminal activities and the Russian secret services. They are part of state terrorism carried out through disinformation, sabotage, arson, and other acts of aggression. All that justifies considering the evolution and escalation of contemporary terrorism in hybrid terms whereby existing and new elements of terrorism are combined to a greater or lesser extent and concern the geopolitical, tactical, strategic, ideological, and behavioral spheres, among others. The following five selected elements of hybrid terrorism illustrate this:

1. There has been a significant change in the geographic scope of the terrorist threat. According to UN reports, the global center of terrorism is currently located in Africa, rather than in the Middle East or Asia. In 2024 alone, over 3,400 terrorist attacks were conducted in Africa, killing nearly 14,000 people. This particularly concerns the Sahel region, where more than half of all global terrorism-related deaths and 19% of all attacks were recorded in 2024. The Sahel is also home to five of the nine countries most affected by terrorism, including Burkina Faso, which tops the list. The dangerous situation in the Sahel is the result of complex and multidimensional internal conditions, competition for resources, and geopolitical rivalry between major powers. The situation in the Sahel indirectly or directly contributes to the escalation of various threats, including terrorism, in other parts of the world, such as the European Union.

2. Terrorists are increasingly using simple, easily accessible tools, such as knives, dirty syringes, speeding cars, and materials used for arson on the one hand, and modern technologies, such as cyberattacks, drones, Starlink systems, and artificial intelligence on the other. This is accompanied by their relatively easy access to firearms, which are smuggled in large quantities from conflict zones in Africa, the Middle East, and Europe (e.g., the Balkans or Ukraine), as well as weapons manufactured using 3D technology.

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<sup>1</sup> This is well illustrated, for example, by the publication: *The Routledge Companion to Terrorism Studies. New Perspectives and Topics*, (ed.) M. Abrahms, London–New York 2025.

3. Terrorists are promoting their narrative online with increasing intensity and effectiveness. The internet and other modern technologies, such as artificial intelligence, have become important tools for propaganda, recruitment, manipulation, fundraising, and other purposes. These tools are also used to radicalize attitudes and promote hate speech.

4. This is accompanied by attackers who are increasingly young and referred to as the “TikTok generation” of terrorists. This trend is evident in various regions worldwide, including the European Union, where the number of minors and young individuals engaged in terrorist and extremist activities is surging. In 2024, for instance, 133 of the 449 people arrested were between 12 and 20 years of age, accounting for over 29% of all arrests for terrorist offenses. For example, in August 2024, police arrested two teenagers, aged 17 and 19, who were planning attacks during a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna (TE-SAT, 2025). A similar spectacular case occurred in Poland, where four individuals, including three 19-year-olds, were arrested between April and September 2025 for allegedly planning a terrorist attack in the town of Olsztyn.

5. A very serious terrorist threat is posed by the increasingly strong formation of a triad encompassing terrorist(s), criminal groups, and the secret services of hostile states. This is particularly dangerous in the case of state terrorism, which supports or engages in various forms of terrorist activity combined with criminal terror, sabotage, and diversion, among others. Russia and Iran are good examples here, as evidenced by their actions in various parts of the world, including the European Union. The *Russia’s Crime-Terror Nexus: Criminality as a Tool of Hybrid Warfare in Europe* report, mentioned above, points to concrete cases related to Russia. Another dimension is the growing association, whether real or alleged, between drug cartels and terrorism.<sup>2</sup>

The current evolution and escalation of the global terrorist threat, including in the European Union, has been noted by politicians, academics, and various analytical centers. Two recent Europol reports provide a particularly clear and objective point of reference: *TE-SAT. European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2024* and *TE-SAT. European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2025*. They indicate that the evolution and escalation of terrorism is reflected in many different ways, including the number of attacks, the scale and characteristics of the threat, and the profile of the perpetrators. The reports also take into account various forms of terrorism: jihadist, right-wing, left-wing, anarchist, ethno-nationalist, and separatist terrorism.

## EUROPEAN UNION TERRORISM SITUATION AND TREND REPORT 2024

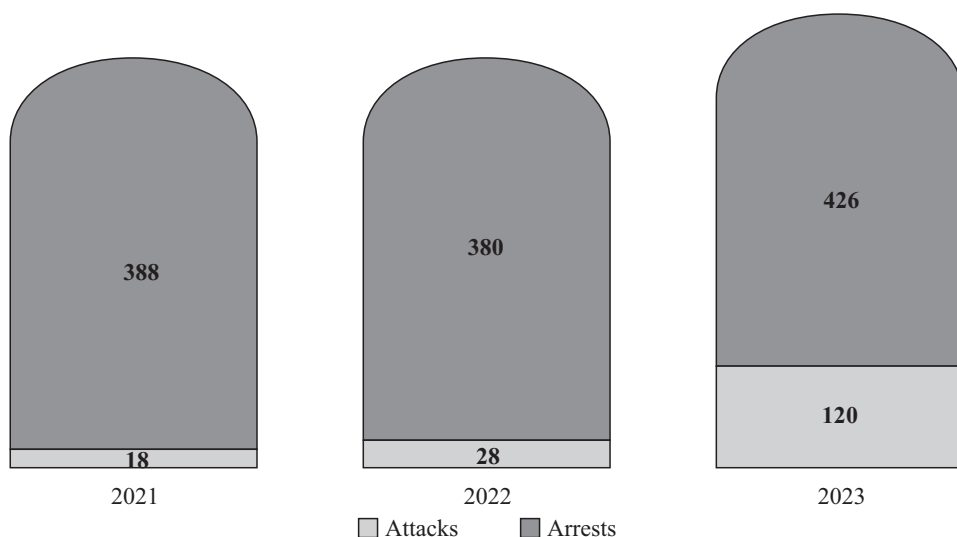
The Europol’s *TE-SAT. European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2024* (TE-SAT, 2024) provides the first point of reference. Published in December 2024, it was prepared using 2023 data in cooperation with EU member states and other partners involved in combating terrorism. In 2023, a total of 120 attacks were recorded, including 98 successful, nine unsuccessful, and 13 foiled attacks. For comparison,

<sup>2</sup> For example, the American administration designated drug cartels, including those in Mexico and Colombia, as terrorist organizations, which has caused mixed reactions: *Terrorist Designations of International Cartels Press Statement*, Marco Rubio, Secretary of State, February 20, 2025, <https://www.state.gov/terrorist-designations-of-international-cartels/> (25.09.2025).

18 attacks were recorded in the European Union in 2021, and 28 in 2022. Thus, 2023 saw a sharp increase of more than four times. Also noteworthy is the large disparity between the number of attacks carried out (98) and those foiled (13). All the attacks were conducted in seven EU member states: France (80), Italy (30), Germany and Spain (three each), Belgium (two), Greece, and Luxembourg (one each). More than 90% of all cases concerned two countries: France and Italy. Most attacks targeted critical infrastructure, private companies, civilians, and police officers. Arson, bombings, destruction of property, and attacks involving knives or firearms were among the most common forms of attack reported.

The Europol report strongly stresses the fact that terrorism in the European Union has many faces, which means that it can arise from a variety of motives, not just an Islamist background as is often mistakenly believed. During the period under analysis, as many as 70 attacks motivated by ethno-nationalism and separatism, and 32 attacks of an extreme left-wing and anarchist nature were reported. In comparison, there were only 14 jihadist terrorist attacks. Naturally, the effects and scope of these attacks vary, as does their media coverage. Notably, the Islamist attacks were deadliest, killing six people and injuring 12 others. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that Europol considers terrorism not only in terms of the number of attacks, but takes into account many other criteria, such as the number of people arrested for terrorist activities and the number of court proceedings conducted for terrorism. According to the report, law enforcement authorities in EU member states arrested 426 individuals accused of terrorism-related crimes in 2023, compared to 380 one year earlier. Spain, France, Belgium, and Germany recorded the highest number in 2023, with more than 50 cases in each country. However, the number of convictions fell to 358 in 2023, compared

**Figure 1. Number of terrorist attacks carried out, failed, or foiled and persons arrested for terrorist activities in the European Union in 2021–2023, according to Europol**



**Source:** TE-SAT, *European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2024*, <https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/TE-SAT%202024.pdf> (3.09.2025).

to 427 in 2022. Detailed statistics confirm that terrorism continues to pose a complex and evolving threat encompassing different motives, forms, and methods of operation by perpetrators.

Terrorist attacks can be carried out using a variety of measures. They will likely continue to take many different forms in the future, ranging from knives and speeding cars, to firearms, explosives, drones, and cyberattacks. The use of dirty bombs or chemical or biological agents cannot be ruled out, either. A significant increase in the online search for information on how to manufacture weapons using 3D technology has also been observed, as well as on training materials, instructions on tactics and strategies for carrying out attacks, and the acquisition of firearms, explosives, drones to be used for military purposes, and even chemical weapons. This applies to people with different views and ideological affiliations, which makes it difficult to associate them with a single trend, such as Islamist or far-right. An additional issue concerns terrorists or their sympathizers using artificial intelligence. The increasingly strong links within the triad of terrorist(s), criminal groups, and the secret services of hostile states are also notable. Terrorists constantly promote their narrative online. The internet and other cyber technologies are important tools used for propaganda, recruitment, and fundraising, among other things. In some cases, this has terrifying consequences, as evidenced by the increasingly young age of attackers. For instance, at Christmas 2024, German police arrested a 15-year-old terrorist planning an attack on a Berlin church.

## EUROPEAN UNION TERRORISM SITUATION AND TREND REPORT 2025

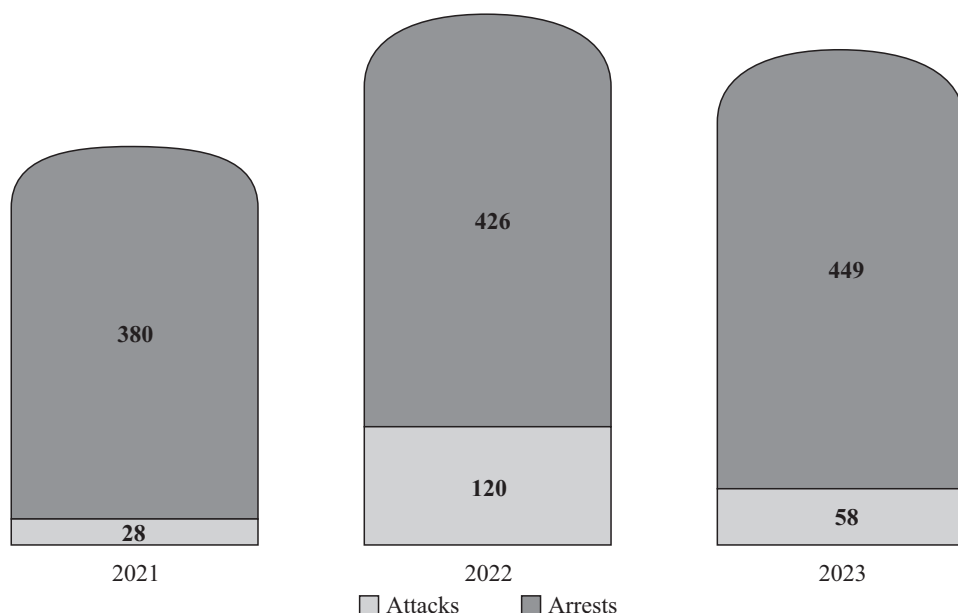
The latest Europol report, entitled *TE-SAT. European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report* (TE-SAT), further confirms the escalation and evolution of the terrorist threat in the European Union. In 2024, Europol recorded a total of 58 terrorist attacks (including 34 that were carried out, five failed, and 19 foiled attacks) in 14 EU member states. Most of them occurred in Italy (20), France (14), and Germany (6), as well as Austria, Greece (three each), the Czech Republic, Denmark, and Lithuania (two each), and Belgium, Ireland, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovakia, and Spain (one each). Twenty-four attacks were attributed to jihadist terrorists, 21 to left-wing and anarchist terrorists, eight were classified as other or unspecified forms of threat, four were separatist in nature, and one was right-wing.

Although the number of attacks fell significantly in 2024 (from 120 in 2023 to 58), a detailed analysis of the Europol report does not inspire optimism. First, the number of EU member states affected by attacks increased from seven to 14. This is particularly evident in the case of the jihadist threat. In 2024, 24 such attacks were recorded in seven countries, compared to 14 attacks in four countries the previous year. Jihadist terrorism remained the deadliest form of the threat under analysis in the European Union, killing five people and injuring a further 18 in 2024. Most of the 2024 attacks targeted civilians, followed by the industrial (state-owned) sector as the most frequent target. Other popular targets included private companies, religious entities/symbols, critical infrastructure, political entities, and law enforcement agencies. Arson was the

most common form of terrorist activity, followed by bombings, stabbings, and the use of firearms.

It is also worth noting the increase in arrests for terrorist crimes. In 2024, 449 people were arrested in 20 EU member states for such crimes, compared to 426 recorded in 2023. The majority of arrests were made in Spain (90), France (69), Italy (62), and Germany (55). Poland made 13 arrests, including one jihadist arrest, and 12 arrests were unclassified. Across the European Union, most cases involved jihadist terrorism (289, which is a decrease compared to 334 in 2023). Conversely, there was an increase in arrests for other forms of terrorism, particularly for right-wing, left-wing, and anarchist terrorism, as well as unclassified forms of terrorism.<sup>3</sup>

**Figure 2. Number of terrorist attacks carried out, failed, or foiled and persons arrested for terrorist activities in the European Union from 2022 to 2024**



**Source:** Europol, *TE-SAT. European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2025* (EU Member States' contributions), [https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/EU\\_TE-SAT\\_2025.pdf](https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/EU_TE-SAT_2025.pdf) (21.09.2025).

Another alarming trend is that the number of minors and young people involved in terrorist and extremist activities increased across the European Union in 2024. Out of 449 persons arrested in 2024, 133 were aged between 12 and 20, accounting for over 29% of all arrests for terrorist offenses. The youngest suspect was 12 years old and was arrested for planning an attack. Most juvenile offenders were linked to jihadist terrorism. They were most often charged with participation in attacks, creation and dissemination of radical propaganda, and membership of a terrorist or extremist group.

<sup>3</sup> This category includes acts of sabotage reported by Poland and Spain that were carried out on behalf of foreign secret services. During the analyzed period, the Polish and Spanish authorities detained nine individuals who had been recruited by Russian agents.

The report also highlights the combination of the terrorist threat with the growing diversity of online platforms used by perpetrators. Groups resorting to this medium often advocate the breakdown of democratic structures through the use of chaos and terror. Many represent ideological views associated with jihadist, right-wing or left-wing terrorism, as well as Satanism, or occultism. In 2024, the number of new services in cyberspace reached record levels, as did the use of artificial intelligence and other new technologies to create and disseminate propaganda and hate speech. This is particularly true of right-wing terrorism but affects also left-wing and anarchist terrorist groups to varying degrees. Notably, the anarchist terrorist organization Partnership of Revenge is composed primarily of members who did not declare any ideological affiliation. They were primarily motivated by financial gain, which represents a clear departure from traditional anarchist terrorist patterns. Throughout 2024, al-Qaeda and Islamic State propaganda was intense, instrumentalizing the events in the Gaza Strip, among other things. Several coordinated jihadist propaganda campaigns were aimed at inciting their supporters to carry out attacks. This also applies to other manifestations of cyberterrorism and cybercrime (*Steal...*, 2025).

## THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT OF THE TERRORIST THREAT

The Europol reports not only presented the scope and nature of the threat in the European Union but also the related international context, which included the war in Ukraine, the situation in the Middle East, and the escalation of terrorism in Africa. The latter is highlighted in the latest report by the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) by indicating that ISIS alone carried out 788 attacks worldwide in the first half of 2024, 536 of which occurred in Africa (*U.S. Africa...*, 2025). Bankole Adeoye, the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, confirmed this in information provided to the United Nations Security Council, showing that Africa is currently the region most threatened by terrorism. In 2024 alone, over 3,400 terrorist attacks occurred, resulting in nearly 14,000 deaths. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 59% of global terrorism-related deaths. The spread of al-Qaeda and ISIS from Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso to coastal West African countries – Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, and the Ivory Coast – has led to a 250% increase in violent attacks over the past two years. This increase is due to a number of various factors, including the earlier successes of Islamists in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Effective counterterrorism requires not only deeper cooperation among all EU member states (including intelligence, logistical, legal, and political cooperation), but also expanded cooperation with NATO and other allies around the world. The goal is to build multifaceted resilience both externally and internally. This requires effective prevention of other challenges as well, such as those identified in alarming reports prepared for EU decision-makers by M. Draghi and S. Niinistö (*Safer...*). The European Union still needs a breakthrough, a new beginning, in how it perceives and implements security. However, this should concern not only threats from Russia and its allies and the solutions to the migrant problem and energy security, but also many other issues, including effectively fighting terrorism. This is especially important given the ongoing

escalation and evolution of this threat. Hopefully, the above plans and actions will not be thwarted by the particular interests of individual member states, ongoing political crises in some of them, discord in transatlantic relations, financial constraints or the increasingly frequent predictions of economic collapse.

The *TE-SAT European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2025* also addresses the broader international context. The report discusses the conflict in the Gaza Strip, which has had a significant impact on terrorism in the European Union, and how it is evolving. Numerous attacks and calls for violence related to this conflict have occurred. Online propaganda by fundamentalists spreading extremism and inciting hatred, including anti-Semitism, has influenced this significantly. Second, the success of the Syrian opposition, particularly its Islamic factions, must be noted, as jihadists continue to exploit this success for propaganda purposes. Third, groups linked to ISIS or al-Qaeda have grown powerful in Africa, particularly in the Sahel region. One of the outcomes of that was that in 2024, the Sahel region accounted for 51% of all terrorism-related deaths worldwide, up from 48% in 2023.

Fundamentalists in Africa are using digital platforms to spread propaganda in multiple languages, often targeting young Europeans. Another serious problem is that terrorists in vast areas of West Africa, which lack traditional communication infrastructure, are using Starlink systems for both communication and armed combat. The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) report (*Observatory...*, 2025) discusses this issue in detail. As a result, Europol has called on European countries to strengthen their cooperation with African entities to anticipate the risks associated with potential attacks, including the influx of trained Islamic terrorists into Europe. Another challenge to EU member states' security is posed by state terrorism supported or conducted directly by Russia and its allies. This threat takes the form of not only cyberattacks and acts of terrorism, but also foreign fighters being recruited through platforms such as Telegram to organize acts of sabotage in Europe. This has been noted not only by European secret services but also by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), an international network of journalists.

## CONCLUSION

1. Considering the above-discussed elements, which demonstrate that contemporary terrorism is both escalating and evolving, it is justified to acknowledge that terrorism is hybrid in nature, combining new and existing elements. This applies to terrorists' determination to increasingly use simple, easily accessible tools, such as knives and speeding cars, as well as modern technologies, such as cyberattacks, drones, Starlink systems, artificial intelligence, and 3D printing. Another manifestation of this is terrorist(s), criminal groups, and the secret services of hostile states forming an increasingly strong triad, which is particularly dangerous in the case of state terrorism, which supports or engages in various activities. An example of this occurred in the European Union in 2025 with Russia's actions and, similarly, in 2024, when a series of attacks inspired by Russian secret services included explosions at Leipzig Airport, a DHL warehouse in Birmingham, and a DPD truck in Poland.



2. Once again, terrorism poses an increasingly serious threat to international security, including that of EU member states. For instance, the number of recorded attacks increased from 18 in 2021 to 28 in 2022 and then to 120 in 2023, a quadruple increase. Also noteworthy is the large disparity between the number of attacks carried out (98) and those foiled (13) in 2023. Over 90% of all attacks during the analyzed period occurred in two countries: France and Italy. Although the number of terrorist attacks fell significantly in 2024 (to 58), optimism is difficult to maintain based on a detailed analysis of Europol's 2025 report. First, the number of EU member states affected by attacks increased from seven to 14. The number of individuals arrested for terrorism and for having international links to terrorist organizations has also increased.

3. Terrorism in the European Union has many faces, meaning that it stems from various motives and is not solely Islamist in origin. When analyzing the political motivations of perpetrators of terrorist attacks, it is worth noting that most of them are related to demands that have been made by extremist organizations for decades within the context of ongoing socio-political conflicts. The escalation and evolution of the terrorist threat in the European Union is part of a broader trend. This includes the rise of extremism and terror. One manifestation of this trend is the increasing frequency of knife attacks. In Berlin alone, the police recorded over 3,000 such incidents in 2024 – approximately ten per day.

4. This trend is accompanied by a clear resurgence of Islamist groups, including ISIS, al-Qaeda, and organizations associated with them. These groups are gradually expanding their influence in various parts of the world, particularly in Africa. This resurgence is due to numerous and varied factors, including the fundamentalists' rapid and spectacular successes in Afghanistan, Syria, and the Sahel, as well as their increasingly intense propaganda, logistical, and financial activities. Countries facing increased risk of Islamist attacks include those that have been frequently attacked in the past, and new targets, such as Poland.

5. Several changes in terrorism were revealed in the analyzed Europol reports, including a gradual decrease in the age of terrorists (in 2024, the youngest person arrested for a terrorist offense in the European Union was 12 years old). Another change involves perpetrators of attacks using newer technological solutions. The terrorist threat is linked to the growing diversity of online platforms that recruit individuals to carry out violent acts. Associated groups often advocate the collapse of democratic societies through chaos and terror. Many of these groups espouse ideological views associated with jihadist, right-wing, or left-wing terrorism.

6. The European Union needs a breakthrough, a new beginning, in the innovative perception and effective combat of terrorism. This is especially important given the ongoing escalation and evolution of this threat. This includes perpetrators using drones, large quantities of firearms smuggled from the Balkans or Ukraine, and 3D-printed firearms, the use of artificial intelligence, such as the particularly dangerous Chinese program Deep Seek, as well as the increasingly widespread use of knives; and last but not least, links between terrorists and criminal groups or the secret services of hostile states intensify. Hopefully, these plans and actions will not be thwarted by the particular interests of individual EU member states, ongoing political crises in some of these



states, the dissonance in transatlantic relations, financial constraints, and increasingly frequent predictions of economic collapse.

7. The escalation and evolution of terrorism is addressed by a recent report *Russia's Crime-Terror Nexus: Criminality as a Tool of Hybrid Warfare in Europe*. It identifies 110 hybrid incidents linked to Russia that have targeted various European countries, particularly Poland and France. These incidents demonstrate terrorism's evolution and its increasingly strong links to criminal activities and operations of Russian secret services. Therefore, these incidents are examples of state terrorism carried out through disinformation, sabotage, arson, and other acts of aggression. A total of 131 individuals involved in these incidents have been identified, 35 of whom had criminal records and were often recruited by organized crime groups through family ties or online platforms such as Telegram. These individuals often hail from post-Soviet or Russian-speaking countries and frequently live in economically precarious conditions.

8. The Bertelsmann Foundation highlights the growing terrorist threat in the European Union, referencing a 2024 study of all 27 EU member states and the United Kingdom. Of the more than 26,000 respondents surveyed, 21% considered fears of terrorist attacks to be the second greatest threat to peace in Europe after problems related to ineffective border protection (approximately 25% of responses). Cyberattacks were mentioned as the third greatest threat (19%). Attacks by foreign powers were ranked fourth (18%), followed by organized crime (17%) (Hoffmann, De Vries, 2024).

9. The Institute for Economics & Peace has published the report *Global Terrorism Index 2025. Measuring the Impact of Terrorism* that also presents the evolution and escalation of the terrorist threat in the European Union and beyond. The report states that the number of terrorist incidents in Europe doubled to 67 in 2024. This primarily affected six countries: Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, and Germany. Some EU member states have also seen an increase in their level of terrorist threat. Germany ranked highest in this regard, coming in 27th in the global threat ranking (up 13 places), followed by Greece (36th, down one place), the Czech Republic (39th, down six places), France (40th, down two places), Poland (47th, up 33 places), and Sweden (50th, up 22 places). For comparison, the United States ranked 34th. This is yet another example of the evolution and escalation of the hybrid terrorist threat in the European Union.

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The dynamic changes that are currently occurring in the international system and security architecture are not only about the intensifying hegemonic rivalry between the United States and China, or the various parts of the world becoming increasingly unstable. They also concern the multifaceted nature of numerous challenges and threats. Identifying and forecasting these requires comprehensive and diverse action, including the development of effective conclusions and recommendations through doctrines, strategies, reports and expert meetings.

It also means that existing security systems based on interstate relations are failing to keep pace with the evolving security landscape, where multidimensional issues are emerging. Therefore, these institutions need to be urgently and thoroughly

reformed so that they can identify and address emerging challenges and threats more effectively. At the international level, this applies to institutions such as the UN, the OSCE, the European Union and the Council of Europe, among others. However, changes must not only be institutional, but also cover security policy at international and national levels. Hybrid terrorism is a good example of a multifaceted problem, as it is linked to an increasingly strong triad of terrorist(s), criminal groups and secret services of hostile states. This is particularly dangerous in the case of state terrorism supporting or carrying out various forms of terrorist activity alongside criminal terror, sabotage and diversion, among other things. This is currently primarily reflected in Russia's actions in various parts of the world, including in the European Union. Another dimension involves the growing links between drug cartels and terrorist or state activities.

The latest issue of *Przegląd Strategiczny (Strategic Review)* refers to numerous aspects of these issues. It comprises four parts addressing the following thematic blocks: War and Conflict; International Relations; Disinformation and Diplomacy in the Postmodern Time; and Other Aspects of Security.

The first section, titled War and Conflict, features seven articles, namely: "Coercion through Threat and Use of Force in Hybrid Warfare and Conventional Strategy: the South Caucasus as a Focal Point", "Hybrid Warfare under Eurasian Geopolitics – the Case of Georgia", "War of the Future: The Role of Critical Thinking and Communicative Tolerance in Military Command and Control", "International Standards for Protecting the Rights of Military Personnel in Armed Conflicts: Legal Aspects and Challenges of the 21st Century", "The War of the Russian Federation against Ukraine 2014–2025 as a Civilizational Confrontation: Political and International Law Assessments", "The War in Ukraine and the Concept of a Permanent Base of the US Armed Forces in Poland", and "Usage of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles on the Basis of Experience of the Russian-Ukrainian War (2022 – 2024)".

The issues addressed in the first part are further elaborated on in the next one, International Relations. This part features five articles discussing various problems emerging in different parts of the world. The following studies make up part two: "Strategic Significance of the Geopolitical Triangle: Balkans, South Caucasus, Middle East for Central and Eastern Europe Implementing the Three Seas Initiative", "The Effectiveness of Sanctions as a Tool of Coercive Diplomacy with a Focus on the Islamic Republic of Iran", "President R. T. Erdoğan's Foreign Policy in the Context of Smart Power. From Debordering to Geopolitical Agency: The European Council's Evolving Border and Territorial Discourse", "The European Union under the Conditions of the Migration Crisis. Consequences for the Evolution of the Identity of the European Union", and "Germany towards Russia's War in Chechnya in 1999–2009".

The following five articles feature in the Disinformation and Diplomacy in the Postmodern Era part: "The Same Evil in Different Frames: A Comparative Analysis of the Narratives about the West between Russian Disinformation Targeting Ukraine and Chinese Disinformation Targeting Taiwan", "The Russian Information-Psychological Narrative on Ukraine's NATO Accession as a 'Cause of War'", "The Use of Sport as an Element in the Construction of 'Z-Ideology' in the Russian Federation", "Safe Time and the Expulsion from Time, or a Review of Selected Postmodern Approaches

to Time”, and “Redefining Diplomacy in the Digital Age: Challenges, Opportunities, and Ethical Implications”.

This issue concludes with part four, entitled Other Aspects of Security, and encompassing six articles that discuss various challenges and threats to security, namely: “Crisis Management in Aviation during an Epidemiological Crisis. A Case Study: China, Taiwan, Poland”, “Transport System Vulnerability in Global Food Security. The Case of War in Ukraine”, “Energy Security Policy in the European Union – the Example of Spain. Development of Renewable Energy –Socio-Economic and Environmental Impacts in Galicia”, “Teachers, Citizens, Precarious Workers? – The Security of Labour Relations in the Teaching Profession: Between Expectations and Reality”, “Climate Security Measures: a Necessity or Barrier to American Citizens’ Prosperity? A Comparative Analysis of Donald Trump and Joe Biden’s Climate Policies”, and “Individual Jihadist Terrorism. An analysis of Selected Examples of Jihadist Terrorist Activity in the European Union”.

To conclude, on behalf of the editorial team, I am delighted to share some very exciting news that will enhance the prestige of our journal. We will be publishing articles submitted by the NATO DEEP eAcademy, and we are planning further collaborations with NATO, some of which are already in progress. One such initiative is a competition for the best academic article to be published in *Przegląd Strategiczny (Strategic Review)*.

Sebastain WOJCIECHOWSKI  
Editor in Chief

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