

R3 Weeding out right-wing extremism

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Agenda item: 1. Resolutions
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Motion text

1 Violent extremism and terrorism pose a threat to the safety of all Europeans and
2 the fabric of our societies. Following the September 11 attacks in 2001, the UN
3 and EU created lists of persons and groups associated with terrorist acts, who
4 would then be targeted with restrictive measures to limit their ability to
5 inflict harm. The EU expanded upon this in Common Position 2001/931/CFSP (CP
6 931) which defines terrorist acts and the measures that can be taken against
7 them. In 2016, after various attacks instigated by the Islamic State of Iraq and
8 Syria (Daesh), the EU expanded its sanctioning capacities for persons connected
9 to Al-Qaida or Daesh. Now the EU could sanction persons and groups without
10 requiring a prior listing by the UN or an EU member state. The current strategy
11 appears to be relatively successful in combating terrorism and extremist
12 violence motivated by Islamism. Sadly, every time the EU has acted after the
13 fact, in 2001 as well as in 2016, even though the broader threat had been there
14 for a longer time.

15 While Islamist violence remains the largest terrorist threat in Europe, right-
16 wing violent extremism and terrorism is growing rapidly. Right-wing extremist
17 violence stems from a reactionary ideology that blames social minorities and
18 progressive politics for societal problems. The prevalence of hate against
19 specific groups inevitably leads to violence being committed against them. The
20 increase of right-wing violence in North-America, Oceania and Europe is a result
21 of online hate speech and the mainstreaming of reactionary politics. Beyond
22 violence directed at specific minorities, reactionaries also direct violence
23 against basic democratic principles such as freedom of speech, fair elections
24 and a free press. As global as the threat may be, countries are often left to
25 their own devices to combat right-wing violent extremism. The national focus of
26 right-wing extremists, belies their ability to form strong transnational bonds.
27 Within Europe there exist financial and strategic linkages between similar
28 right-wing extremist groups that enable them to further spread their message,
29 radicalize new recruits and orchestrate deadly terrorist attacks. Therefore even
30 a supposed lone actor still relies on a broad network spreading propaganda and
31 encouraging violent action.

32 The terrorist attacks of Christchurch spurred an international reaction to
33 combat and remove violent extremist and terrorist content from online fora.
34 While these efforts were fruitful in removing the most heinous of content,
35 internet companies still do far too little to combat harmful content on their
36 platform. European states should further instrumentalize their collective
37 leverage to diminish the radicalization potential of online media. These online
38 platforms also provide an avenue for outside influencing, like Russian hybrid
39 warfare, and the spread of violent conspiracy theories, like Q-Anon.

40 As of now the EU has not listed a single person, group or entity of a right-wing
41 signature based on CP 931. There has not been a Union-wide effort to combat and
42 prevent violent right-wing extremism through restrictive measures such as
43 freezing assets. A broad approach, including close cooperation between law
44 enforcement in various European countries is necessary to combat this threat. In
45 order to effectively combat online radicalization, popular internet platforms
46 should closely moderate their platforms to avoid hate speech turning into
47 violence.

48 **Concretely we:**

- 49 • Urge the EU to list violent right-wing extremist persons, groups and
50 entities on the basis of CP 931, allowing the EU to freeze assets and
51 limit travel by the listed extremists. Another possible course of action
52 is targeting these right-wing extremists for money laundering.

- 53 • Advise to disrupt right-wing recruitment on online platforms, a strategy
54 that was successfully implemented for Daesh and other Islamist extremist
55 groups.

- 56 • Encourage a broader information exchange and investigative cooperation
57 between European law enforcement.