

Commissioner for Home affairs Ms. Johansson, Commissioner for Justice Mr. Reynders, Minister of the Interior of the Czech Republic Vít Rakušan,

Brussels, 16/09/2022

Dear Commissioner for Home affairs Ms. Johansson, Dear Commissioner for Justice Mr. Reynders, Dear Minister of the Interior of the Czech Republic Vít Rakušan,

We, the undersigned members of the European parliament, are deeply concerned by the most recent EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report, which shows that nearly all reported terrorist fatalities and most casualties in the EU resulted from radicalized EU-born citizens. We call on the Commission and the Council of the EU to fulfil the commitment to stop using EU funds in support of radicalization and terrorism within the EU.

Security service reports and official sources from Germany, the UK, Austria, Sweden, Ireland, and other European countries continuously warn about the extensive influence radical groups are gaining within the EU. For instance, the German government confirmed that German subsidy of the European organization that receives EU funds had "significant personal connections" to the Muslim Brotherhood.

The transnational radical groups operate in Europe indirectly through a network of political, educational, charitable, and other organizations that are beneficiaries of EU funds. Thus, the EU taxpayer's money is funding radical activities and terrorism.

Members of the European Parliament, representing millions of Europeans from the entire political spectrum, asked the European Commission at least 42 times about its support for different radical organizations. However, the Commission has always provided generic and broad answers.

In 2021, the Commission answered the question regarding preventing the funding of organizations directly or indirectly linked to extremist organizations relevant to the 2019 Discharge. It stated that the checks against the exclusion criteria for funding award are based on a declaration of honour by the entity, complemented with relevant evidence, where appropriate, at the competent authority's request, which shall include information on beneficial owners. The Commission however did not specify any information regarding the ongoing inquiries relating to the beneficial ownership of those groups. The due diligence process to uncover EU funds' final beneficiaries is insufficient, and the Commission must take a more proactive role to ensure sound financial management and the safety of our citizens.

The Minister of the Interior of the Czech Republic, Mr. Vít Rakušan, the representative of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union, stated on the 5th of September 2022 at the LIBE Committee meeting that the Presidency fully supports the countering radicalization action initiated under the French presidency. The action calls for the Commission to introduce EU-wide initiatives to minimize third country and public funding of radical entities.

Therefore, we, the undersigned members, are calling on the Commission to act in accordance with the request of the Council presidencies and propose legislative measures addressing public funding of radicalization within the EU.

Sincerely,

Tomáš Zdechovský, EPP Morten Løkkegaard, Renew Emmanouil Fragkos, ECR Miriam Lexmann, EPP Ladislav Ilčić, ECR Gilles Lebreton, ID Jorge Buxadé, ECR Tomas Tobé, EPP Hermann Tertsch, ECR Krzysztof Hetman, EPP Javier Nart, Renew Frédérique Ries, Renew Ljudmila Novak, EPP Milan Zver, EPP Peter Pollák, EPP Charlie Weimers, ECR Romana Tomc, EPP Isabella Adinolfi, EPP Tom J.P. Vandendriessche, ID Maximilian Krah, ID Antonio López Istúriz, EPP