



Preparedness against CBRN threats – EU Action Plan

7 June 2018
Athens, Greece

**BEST PRACTICES IN IMPLEMENTING
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR)**

Wiktoria WOJTAS
European Commission
DG Home Affairs



European Commission

ISIS Terrorist Cell Dismantled 'Biological Weapons'

Friday 19 February 2016 - 16:18



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BY JACK MOORE ON 9/7/17 AT 5:12 AM



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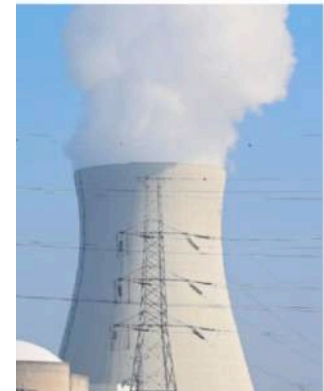
The New York Times

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Are Vulnerable



Evolving CBRN threat

- Chemical weapons in Syria
- Propaganda: easy to implement scenarios for small CBRN attacks
- Transfer of knowledge
- New technologies

*"Investigators also said that after the airport plot did not succeed, the suspects tried to create an **improvised chemical device intended to release "highly toxic hydrogen sulfide."** An Islamic State operative in Syria advised the men on which public areas would be best to place the device, the police said.*





European Council conclusions on the Salisbury attack, 22 March

2018

The European Council condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent attack in Salisbury, expresses its deepest sympathies to all whose lives have been threatened and lends its support to the ongoing investigation. It agrees with the United Kingdom government's assessment that it is highly likely that the Russian Federation is responsible and that there is no plausible alternative explanation. We stand in unqualified solidarity with the United Kingdom in the face of this grave challenge to our shared security.

The use of chemical weapons, including the use of any toxic chemicals as weapons under any circumstances, is completely unacceptable, must be systematically and rigorously condemned and constitutes a security threat to us all. Member States will coordinate on the consequences to be drawn in the light of the answers provided by the Russian authorities. The European Union will remain closely focused on this issue and its implications.

Against this background, the European Union must strengthen its resilience to **Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear-related risks**, including through **closer cooperation** between the European Union and its Member States as well as **NATO**. The European Union and its Member States should also continue to bolster their capabilities to address hybrid threats, including in the areas of cyber, strategic communication and counter-intelligence. The European Council invites the European Commission and the High



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22/03/2018

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2017 Counterterrorism Package

- a number of measures to support Member States in fighting terrorism:

I. Measures to improve the protection and resilience against terrorism (incl. two Action Plans: on CBRN and on the protection of public spaces);

II. Actions tackling the means that support terrorism (including on terrorist financing and explosives precursors);

III. Countering radicalisation



EU CBRN Action Plan 2010-2015

2009 - EU CBRN Action Plan - 124 actions; all-hazard approach

2012 – 1st Progress Reports - "uneven implementation"

2012 – Council Conclusions

"...the need [...] to focus on and prioritise further common efforts to enhance the security of production, storage, handling and transportation of high-risk CBRN and E materials..."

"...to use the EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Action Plan, and the Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives, as a foundation for creating a revised policy..."

2014 - Communication on a new EU approach to the **detection** and mitigation of CBRN-E risks



2017 Action Plan to enhance preparedness against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security risks

"credible indications suggesting that terrorist groups might have the intention of acquiring CBRN materials or weapons and are developing the capability and capacity to use them"

"technological developments which might be exploited by terrorists for malicious purposes"

"potential of CBRN attacks features prominently in **terrorist propaganda**"



A more coordinated and focused approach

1. Reducing the accessibility of CBRN materials
2. Ensuring a more robust preparedness for and response to CBRN incidents
3. Building stronger internal-external links in CBRN security with key regional and international EU partners
4. Enhancing our knowledge of CBRN risks



I. Reducing the accessibility of CBRN materials

- Optimise the **exchange of information** on CBRN (e.g. mapping of information systems, needs and possible shortcomings)
- Strengthen **risk-based customs** controls to intercept dangerous CBRN materials at the border
- Strengthen EU **export controls**
- Address **insider threats**



II. Ensuring a more robust preparedness for and response to CBRN security incidents

- **Cross-sectorial training** and exercises
- Strengthen EUs CBRN response capacity (under EUCPM)
- Conduct **gap analysis** on the detection of CBRN materials
- Improve Early Warning and Response System (EWRS)
- **Joint procurement** of medical countermeasures
- Improve awareness, preparedness and response to bio-risks, including emerging threats, enhance preparedness of bio-labs
- Create a **CBRN detection pool**
- Use **EUSECTRA** - European Nuclear Security Training Centre
- Reinforce Nuclear forensics cooperation



III. Building stronger internal-external links in CBRN security with key partners

- Enhance cooperation with **key regional and strategic partners** experience in CBRN (example the US)
- Closer **cooperation with NATO**
 - in relation to **third countries** and with the NATO-accredited **CBRN Centre of Excellence**
 - Develop synergies with NATO on how **counter-terrorism** may benefit from defence capability development
 - EU-NATO **workshop** – Q1/2 2018
- Increase cooperation with specialised **international** organisations, e.g. IAEA, OPCW etc... and further develop the **EU CBRN Centres of Excellence**



IV. Enhancing our knowledge of CBRN risks

Create an EU CBRN Security network, comprised of:

- A dedicated Advisory Group on EU CBRN Security – CBRN Security Coordinators
- An EU CBRN Support Network – composed of existing CBRN centres across the EU
- Europol (ECTC) to develop a knowledge hub on CBRN

Using better research

- Support dissemination and take-up of research results
- Encourage harmonisation through standardisation and certification



Any Questions?

Thank you!