



Brussels International Center
Research & Human Rights

Brussels International Center

Conference

Gulf Diplomatic Crisis: Tackling the Financing of Terrorism

01 February 2018 – 14:00 – 16:00

European Parliament – Brussels

Substantial progress has been made in understanding the phenomenon of terrorism financing, and implementing the necessary measures to address it. Terrorism financing encompasses specific activities that involve fund-raising, storing and concealing funds to sustain terrorist organizations as well as transferring funds to carry out specific terrorist attacks.

Targeted financial sanctions against suspected entities are one means in which to address the issue, however as seen by the recent diplomatic crisis between Qatar and the Gulf Cooperation Council, this is often complicated by political agendas. Since the escalation of the heated diplomatic row there has been numerous accusations of each side's complicity in illegal, manipulative, and dishonest activities related to terrorism financing.

While there are serious allegations of Qatar's links to terrorist financing, the dispute shines a spotlight on decades old practices that has plagued the region for years. Many analysts claim that the government of Qatar's role in fighting terrorism has improved in recent years, but it is clear that much work remains to be done. For example, the government recent controversial decision to continue its policy of paying ransom fees for hostages indirectly continues support to terrorist organizations, and is viewed by many analysts as counterproductive.

This event will seek to address the root causes of terrorism financing, and reflect on the appropriate European responses to the continuing Gulf Diplomatic Crisis. In addition to discussing issues relating to the crime-terrorism nexus, leading thinkers with an array of perspectives will outline, discuss and exchange views on pertinent strategies to combat this global challenge, such as transparent and anti-corruption mechanisms, the European anti-money laundering directive (AMLD), and the EU external actions on countering the issue of terrorism financing.

Confirmed Speakers

H.E. Dr. Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi

Chairman of Hedayah

Member of the Gulf Cooperation Council Advisory Panel

Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Elders

Mr. Joost Hilterman

International Crisis Group

Director for Middle East and North Africa

Mr. Jack Schickler

European Commission

Cabinet of Commissioner Julian King

Ambassador John Gatt-Rutter

European External Action Service

Head of Counter-Terrorism Division

Hosted by

Mrs. Rachida Dati MEP

European Parliament

Conference Format

The conference will have a lecture format, which will be moderated by Ms. Kate Jackson, who has several years of experience in moderating. MEP Ms. Rachida Dati and BIC-RHR's Director Mr. Ramadan Abujazar will provide the welcoming remarks to the audience and speakers.

Speakers will be introduced collectively by Ms. Jackson, and each will give a short intervention explaining their perspective on the subject, which should provide extensive coverage of all relevant viewpoints. This will lead to an interactive section in which speakers can respond to brief follow-up questions by the moderator, to further define future challenges and define an agenda for actions on terrorism financing in the Gulf region.

Attendees will then have the opportunity to participate during the Q&A session, and contribute comments and questions to the discussion. This will draw on the extensive expertise from high-level policy makers, Ambassadors and leading think-tank Directors in the room, and produce a dynamic, constructive debate.

Following the debate, BIC will produce a list of pragmatic strategies and recommendations based on the discussion, focused on preventing future financing of extremist activities, and strengthening investigations into the individuals and organizations facilitating illicit financial flows.