

**Intervention Director-General AIVD
Global Counterterrorism Forum
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I am grateful for the opportunity to speak about the cooperation from the perspective of security services. I will not just do that as the Chief of Intelligence in the Netherlands, but also in my capacity as the Chairman of the European Counter Terrorism Group, CTG, in which you will find all the European Security Services, as well as the Norwegian and Swiss services.

I don't have to explain to you that the terrorist threat we are all facing is significant and on-going. And of course I hardly have to advocate that it calls for extremely close cooperation. When talking about cooperation, I do not just mean cooperation between the security services. I mean cooperation between all involved government institutions in the international and

inter-regional context, as well as on the national level.

I will address three topics: international cooperation, the role and ambition of the CTG and, finally, security service activities versus law enforcement.

Firstly, I want to emphasize that International Cooperation between the security services is already effective and productive.

At any given day in my HQ you will find more than one delegation of another EU or non-EU Security Service. At any given day in my HQ you could see my analysts contacting another Security Service to exchange information and intelligence on terrorists. And you could see the same in the offices of most of the other services. We have an extensive network in place of secure communications in various forms.

I can assure you, between the Services we **do** have a longstanding tradition of working together. And we **do** feel the urgency to continuously explore the possibilities to broaden, improve and deepen our cooperation. At the same time, each of us can **only** operate within the boundaries of national legislation and with adequate measures in place to protect sensitive sources and intelligence. And we all realize that our work is never done.

The European Counterterrorism Group (CTG) is a great example of effective regional cooperation. All our activities aim to create the adequate platforms for intelligence officers to exchange on a day-to-day basis information, best practices and backgrounds. It is done on a bilateral as well as multilateral basis. We share our analyses of the threat and our measures to counter it. We have joint operational teams in various formats and on different topics.

But it is our ambition to go beyond that. The CTG is determined to fully exploit the technical possibilities to share intelligence on a real-time basis in a safe and secure way, compliant with national legislation. And we are committed to further develop a common methodology, common standards and a common language to assess our targets. We will do so before the end of this year in order to further improve information sharing.

Finally, concerning the cooperation between the security services and law enforcement.

You will be aware that Security services work with sensitive sources and sensitive intelligence.

Sources should be protected from disclosure not just to guarantee that those assets can remain in place, but also to protect the lives of those providing information. Source protection is a fundamental principle and, in most countries, a legal obligation.

On top of that, we need to ensure that we do not share uncorroborated information. After all, this could lead to action against an individual who has not committed any crime and does not pose a threat to our security. And that is undesirable.

For that reason, the Netherlands has a clear and solid separation between intelligence information and law enforcement information. But in close cooperation with the Public Prosecutor, who has a representative in my HQ, and with the National Police we ensure that proper action can be taken where necessary, based on the knowledge of my service. I am convinced that similar mechanisms in your own countries could bring international cooperation to the next level.

It is my firm belief that close and closer cooperation is the only way to stay ahead of the power curve, the only way to anticipate the development of the international terrorist threat.

To be able to beat the terrorist network, we have to be the better network ourselves. We **have** to be the better network ourselves. That is what we aim at in the Netherlands, it is what we aim at in the CTG. It is Also what we should aim at in this GCTF forum.