

# COOPERATION OF EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) IN OVERCOMING TERRORISM IN EUROPE ON 2019-2021

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## ABSTRACT

The shift and expansion of security coverage in international relations makes security divided into two types, namely traditional and non-traditional security. Terrorism is a form of non-traditional threat which is still a priority for countries and international organizations around the world. The anxiety that comes from terrorism attacks makes countries and international organizations to form joint policies and cooperation in the context of countering terrorism. The European Union, as a regional organization of countries in Europe contributes to protecting European citizens by acting as the main forum for cooperating and coordinating with member states. Another effort made by the European Union to improve security in their region is to deepen and expand their security cooperation with NATO to eradicate, thwart and eradicate terrorist acts which have continued to increase since 2014. Through the Joint Declaration in 2018, the European Union and NATO deepen the scope of their security cooperation in combating terrorism in Europe.

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## INTRODUCTION

Along with the times, the scope of security and security threats has become wider. In the discipline of international relations, security is divided into two types, namely traditional and non-traditional security (Martin, 2021). The development and discovery of new technologies that bring convenience to human life does not only have a positive influence on human life, but also presents threats that can affect and change human life. The development of weapons technology makes countries in the world have defense tools that can help them improve the security and peace of their citizens and countries (Ningsih et al., 2022). On the other hand these developments can be misused such as to carry out terrorist attacks.

The 9/11 attacks that occurred in the United States became a prelude for countries in the world to begin paying special attention to acts of violence related to terrorists (Hernata & Hanura, 2022). The initiation to eradicate terrorism was started by the United States government which then made a policy that was offered to countries around the world through

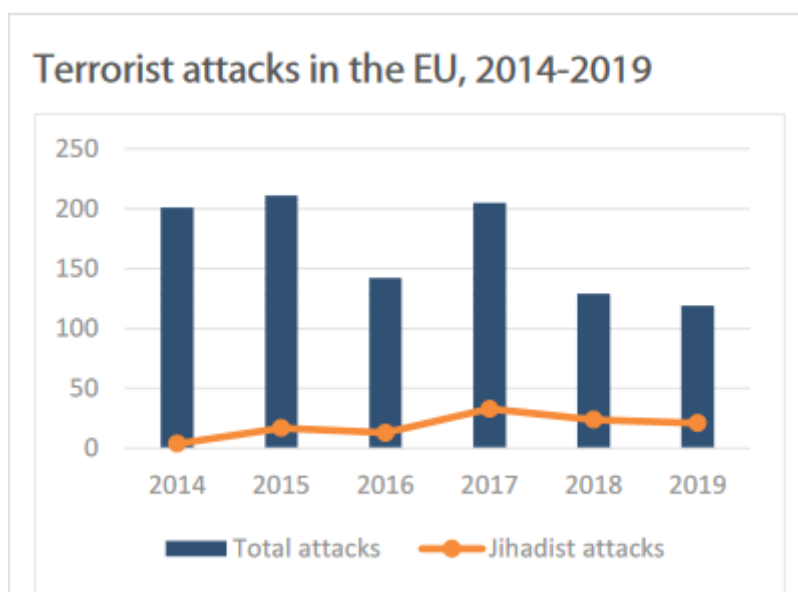
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the War on Terrorism program (Aminuddin, 2020). Since then, countries in the world have started to make domestic policies to prevent and eradicate terrorism. In addition, countries increase cooperation in response to countering and dealing with terrorism in their respective countries.

Combating and eradicating terrorism is in fact not only the responsibility of the state, it is also the responsibility of international organizations that are involved in efforts to maintain stability, security and peace, both in the world and in the region (Ramadhanty, 2019). The United Nations, European Union, and NATO are some of the international organizations that make combating terrorism one of their focuses. Organizing and increasing cooperation with fellow international organizations is one of the efforts of these organizations to realize their efforts to maintain security from the threat of terrorism.

The terrorist attacks in the European Union after 9/11 began in 2014 were five (5) direct ISIS attacks that killed 188 people (Bergen et al., 2019). Since then, many terrorist attacks in the European Union have occurred, making the European Union as an organization responsible for maintaining stability, security and peace, countries in Europe take further action in response to these attacks by increasing the capacity and capability of the European Union's military by cooperating with other countries. NATO. In 2018 in the Joint Declaration the European Union and NATO agreed to focus on increasing military mobility and fighting terrorism, as well as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats.



**Figure 1. Statistical Data On Terrorist Attacks In European Union Countries In 2014 - 2019**

Source: Understanding Eu Counter-Terrorism Policy

Gandhi (2018) in his article entitled The Influence of United States - European Union Cooperation in the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program Framework Against Counter-Terrorism in Trans-Atlantic analyzes the effectiveness of the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program as an effort to eradicate terrorism and explains the influence of this collaboration on eradication efforts. terrorism in the Trans-Atlantic. Gandhi concluded that this collaboration was quite effective because the United States Department of Finance, Europol, and the European Commission succeeded in investigating terrorist networks in Europe and the United States.

[Hastoro \(2020\)](#) in his writings discusses maritime security issues in the Mediterranean sea area which is the main focus of NATO in implementing Active Endeavor military operations considering the alliance's interests, both explicit and implicit, regarding the magnitude of the potential threat of terrorism in the region. NATO is present through various Navy combat fleets, Active Endeavor operations have a significant impact on the development of maritime security in the operational coverage area, namely the Mediterranean sea.

[Mayastuti \(2012\)](#) through her article entitled Strategic Cultural Analysis in US-EU Counter-Terror Cooperation explains how security actors develop their counter-terror strategy through the lens of strategic culture and how an incompatible strategic culture between these actors will make it difficult for them to cooperate with each other. However, when the two security actors both feel their identity is being threatened or when both of them are not being threatened by their identity, then they can only carry out counter-terror cooperation more smoothly.

## **METHOD**

The research method that will be used in this paper is qualitative ([Creswell & Poth, 2016](#)). The study using secondary data obtained from books, journals, articles, annual reports, and the European Union and NATO web which will be described as the effect of the cooperation in combating terrorism between the European Union (EU) and The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 2019 - 2021 after the Joint Declaration between these two organizations in 2018.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The European Union is an example of how countries through collective agreements form the rules, norms and principles that govern relations between their member states ([Oesingmann, 2016](#)). They have created a set of rules that allow member states to collectively achieve their respective national interests. Organizations that started as a forum for economic cooperation to rebuild the European economy which was destroyed after the 2nd world war over time developed the scope of their cooperation which eventually formed a special sovereignty for the European Union to intervene in the national policies of their member countries to comply with the policies of the European Union. and rules that have been jointly established by the European Union.

Maastricht European Council agreed that the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) becomes the second pillar of the European Union in which every security policy taken by the European Parliament must be adopted into the domestic security policy of member states ([Cardwell, 2013](#)). So that every incident or action that occurs in one of the member countries will be a threat and the focus of attention of the European Union because it is a threat to the European Union itself. One form of security threat that is troubling countries in Europe is terrorism attacks. Since the attacks in 2014, terrorist attacks in Europe have been increasing every year ([Hutasoit et al., 2021](#)). Each member state of the European Union has attempted to deal with these attacks independently but has been unsuccessful in reducing or arresting terrorist networks in Europe. Maintaining security and combating crime is the responsibility of the state. However, if the crime creates unrest and threatens the stability, security and peace of the region, then international organizations will step in and be involved in handling it. The increasing number of terrorist attacks in Europe has made the European Union an organization that accommodates European countries in all fields to contribute to protecting the European community by acting as the main forum for cooperation and coordination between countries.

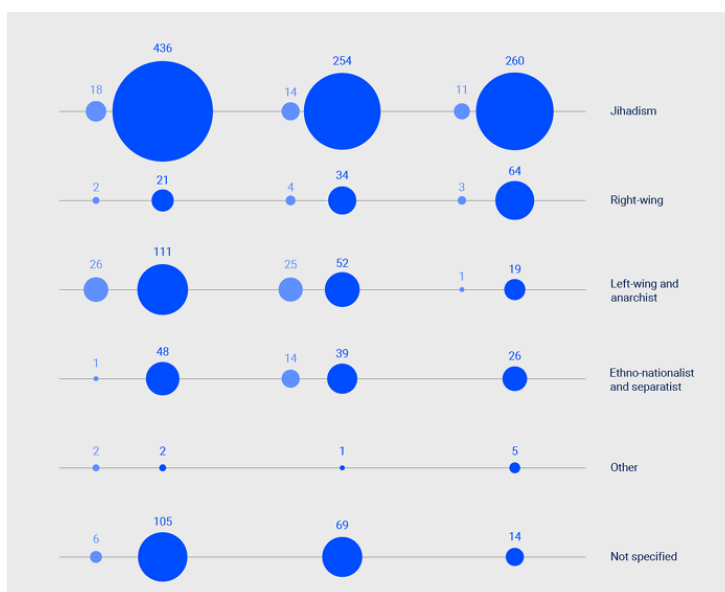
In addition to forming a common policy to prevent and eradicate terrorism in Europe, the European Union also intervenes in helping to maintain and improve domestic security and security in their region by cooperating with other countries or other international organizations, one of which is NATO.

NATO is a security alliance of countries in North America and Europe which aims to maintain the security and freedom of alliance countries through military and political means. NATO is the main instrument of transatlantic community security and the expression of shared democratic values (NATO, 2022a).

The existence of the threat of terrorism in Europe is certainly a form of threat to NATO because as written in the US Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization website that in Article 5 of the Washington Agreement states that attacks against NATO member countries are a form of attack for all NATO members. In addition, NATO, which is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, of course considers terrorist attacks that often occur in European countries to be a threat to them because they disrupt regional security in Europe.

Along with the expansion of NATO, the scope of security is being focused not only on military threats, but also new forms of security threats, such as terrorism and piracy that affect the alliance and global network of NATO partners.

Terrorist attacks that occur in Europe are dominated by religion-based terrorism. As the data below we can see that the number of religious-based terrorism attacks has a large number.



**Figure 2. Data on types of terrorist attacks in European Union countries in 2019 - 2021**

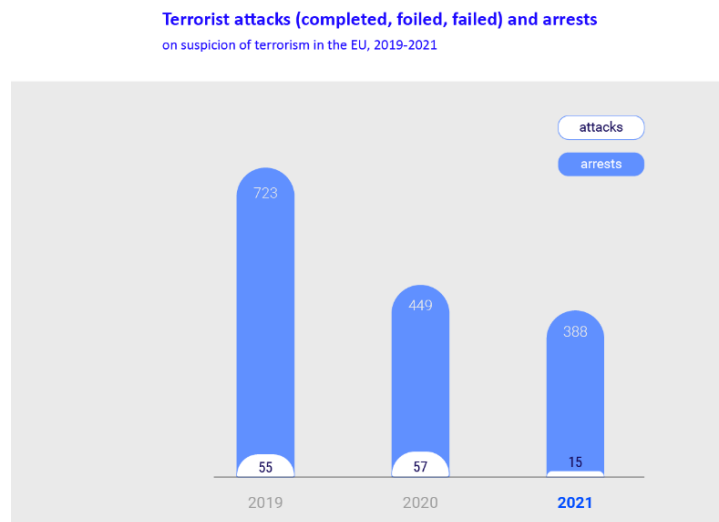
Source: European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2022

To deal with the increase in terrorist attacks, the European Union and NATO have deepened and expanded their cooperation in combating terrorism in the 2018 Joint Declaration (NATO, 2022b):

1. Technology to reduce the impact of terrorist attacks,
2. Development of comprehensive military capabilities through joint training and upgrading of weapons technology, and
3. Development of concepts, doctrines, policies, and tools for dealing with terrorists.

The expansion carried out by NATO and the European Union has made almost all countries on the European continent a member of the organization which has an impact on increasing the possibility of threats being received. With the expansion of cooperation carried out by the European Union and NATO in combating terrorism through the Defense against terrorism program of work, terrorist attacks in Europe have decreased from year to year. Through this cooperation, European countries have an effective strategy to thwart such attacks and arrest terrorist actors due to the increasing use of technology or methods for detecting unmanned aircraft systems, biometric recognition, technical exploitation of software, and improvised explosive devices.

The data below shows the number of attacks carried out, whether executed, failed, or thwarted as well as terrorist arrests in Europe.



**Figure 3. Statistical data on terrorist attacks in European Union countries in 2019 - 2021**

Source: European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2022

## CONCLUSION

Handling Terrorism is crucial because it can influence stability and security of society which can also affect the world. The effectiveness of the strategy to eradicate terrorism is needed as seen through the Defense against terrorism program of work and the 2018 Joint Declaration of EU AND NATO, where the cooperation of these two institutions was able to show significant results from their policies by increasing the failure of terrorism attacks and arrests of terrorist networks in Europe. This explains that the responsibility for world security issues is not only the responsibility of states, but also international organizations, in this paper the European Union and NATO. With the collaboration of these two international organizations, they provide more effective and tangible results by utilizing their policies and performance connections through digital adaptation. So, to create a Europe free from this terror threat.

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