

Brussels, 03 FEB. 2015  
A(2015)31487

To the EU Ministers for Foreign Affairs

**Re: immediate deployment of security/counter-terrorism experts in EU Delegations**

*Dear colleagues,*

I would like to follow up on our fruitful FAC meeting on Monday, where we agreed to strengthen the capacity of key EU delegations to contribute to European counter-terrorism efforts.

I would like to propose the immediate implementation of this decision as one important aspect of our wider strategy to face this common threat. Specifically, I would like to invite Member States to second experts with a suitable security profile.

To this end, I have selected for urgent action a number of countries in the MENA region where I have decided to establish a position for a seconded security expert: Algeria, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia (dealing with all GCC countries) and Tunisia. I would also like to include, as priorities, Turkey, given its strategic importance in the fight against Daesh, addressing foreign terrorist fighters, and Nigeria, given the threat posed by Boko Haram to the whole region.

In these countries, EU delegations are ready to host Member States' security experts to work under the mandate attached. Other countries could be added to the list at a later stage as we unfold our strategy.

I would like to recall that we have already Member States' security experts in some EU delegations in the MENA region: in Yemen, Libya (currently evacuated to Tunis) and Lebanon. We have also two Member States' security experts in our Delegation in Somalia (based in Nairobi). I am grateful to the Member States who have provided these experts. Their mandate will be adapted in order to increase their involvement in counter-terrorism.

To speed up the selection process and the deployment of the security experts, the positions will be opened, at this stage, under the administrative specifications of "cost free secondments".

In parallel, the EEAS is assessing all other mechanisms to increase our effectiveness, such as the possibility of drawing on capabilities of CSDP/CFSP missions in key theatres to enhance the EU's response to terrorism, and other rosters of experts who could contribute to our collective effort.

As we agreed, last Monday, we need to cooperate better and more closely in the face of this common threat. We also need to increase our dialogue, including on counter-terrorism and security, with our friends and allies in the MENA region and beyond who are also exposed as we are to the threat of terror. I am convinced that the rapid deployment of security/counter-terrorism experts in EU Delegations in key countries will already send the right message about Europe's resolve and decisiveness in this matter.

It is important that we make sure this issue is followed up in COREPER and PSC, keeping in mind possible further developments in other parts of the world where relevant, and in line with the more general requirement for security expertise in delegations.

I look forward to your collaboration, and I suggest that we take stock of the progress in this important area at one of the next meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Mogherini', written in a cursive style.

Federica Mogherini