



HOUSE OF LORDS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

Sub-Committee on Home Affairs

INQUIRY INTO THE EU INTERNAL SECURITY STRATEGY

Call for Evidence

The Home Affairs Sub-Committee of the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union, chaired by Lord Hannay of Chiswick, is conducting an inquiry into the EU's approach to internal security. The Committee seeks evidence from anyone with an interest.

Written evidence is sought by **22 December 2010**. Public hearings will be held in December 2010 and January and February 2011. The Committee aims to report to the House, with recommendations, in April 2011. The report will receive a response from the Government, and may be debated in the House.

The inquiry will focus on two documents:

- the Internal Security Strategy for the European Union which was approved by the Council on 26 February 2010 and endorsed by the European Council on 26 March 2010 (Council doc. 7120/10); and
- the Communication from the Commission: The EU Internal Security Strategy in Action: Five steps towards a more secure Europe (COM(2010)673 final, 22 November 2010)

The Internal Security Strategy (ISS) lays out a European security model to integrate action on law enforcement and judicial cooperation, border management and civil protection. Its declared objectives are:

- to raise public awareness of the role and value added by the EU in internal security
- to further develop common tools and policies addressing causes of insecurity as well as effects
- to strengthen law enforcement and judicial cooperation, border management, civil protection and disaster management.

The Commission Communication describes a range of proposed actions intended to:

- disrupt international crime networks
- prevent terrorism and address radicalisation and recruitment
- raise levels of security for citizens and businesses in cyberspace
- strengthen security through border management
- increase Europe's resilience to crises and disasters.

This inquiry will concentrate on:

- EU and Member State responsibilities for internal security including the role of COSI (the Committee set up under art. 71 TFEU)
- the scope, scale, priorities and intent of the ISS
- prospects and plans for implementation of the ISS
- the relationship between the ISS and global security initiatives, especially those of the United States
- the relationship between the ISS and other EU strategies, policies and plans
- the balance between better security and greater intrusion into individual privacy.

The Sub-Committee would welcome evidence on any aspect of ISS and its development and its proposed implementation. We would particularly welcome comments on:

Scope, scale and range

The scope of the ISS; whether it covers the appropriate range of threats, issues and problems; any gaps and omissions (or inappropriate inclusions); the proportionality and ambition of the approach in relation to the threats and issues identified; the practicability and appropriateness of the proposed European Security Model; priorities for the ISS and its likely impact. How should success be judged?

Roles and responsibilities

Clarity of roles and responsibilities between national authorities and the Union; the role of COSI; relationships and interdependencies between the ISS and other strategies and policies, including the external dimension.

Prevention and anticipation

The systems, mechanisms and processes needed to improve confidence in early warning of threats and problems; the scope for greater cooperation with non-government actors, including the private and education sectors, and civil society organisations; ways to counter radicalisation and reduce vulnerability and risk.

Information exchange

Practical measures to build trust and encourage timely exchange and appropriate access to data whilst maintaining the right to privacy and the requirements of data protection.

Operational cooperation

The effectiveness of cooperation between EU agencies and bodies involved in EU internal security including Europol, Frontex, Eurojust, Cepad and SitCen, and measures for the improvement of cooperation; cooperation and support for major and mass international events.

Integrated border management

The need to reinforce border management mechanisms and share best practice; the case for a European system of border guards; the scope for greater use of technology to facilitate border crossing by citizens whilst maintaining or improving security.

GUIDANCE FOR THOSE SUBMITTING WRITTEN EVIDENCE

The deadline for submitting written evidence is 22 December 2010.

Submissions should be sent to:

Michael Collon
Clerk to the Home Affairs Sub-Committee,
Select Committee on the European Union,
House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW

Telephone 020 7219 8650 Fax 020 7219 6715

Versions in Word, sent as an email attachment to lukensj@parliament.uk, are also needed for evidence which is to be published.

Please ensure that you include relevant contact details. Evidence should be signed and dated, with a note of your name and position, and should state whether it is submitted on an individual or corporate basis.

Witnesses are encouraged to focus on those issues of which they have particular knowledge or experience; submissions need not cover all the questions.

Evidence sent in hard copy should be clearly printed or typed on single sides of A4 paper, unstapled. Paragraphs should be numbered. Lengthy submissions should include a summary. If drawings or charts are included, they should be black-and-white and of camera-ready quality.

Evidence becomes the property of the Committee, and may be placed on the Committee's website, printed or circulated by the Committee at any stage. If your evidence is not printed, it will in due course be made available to the public in the Parliamentary Archives. Once you have received acknowledgement that your evidence has been received you may publicise or publish it yourself, but in doing so you should indicate that it was prepared for the Committee. If you do this, Parliamentary privilege will not apply to your own publication.

Personal contact details supplied to the Committee will be removed from evidence before publication, but will be retained by the Committee Office for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work.

Persons who submit written evidence, and others, may be invited to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster, broadcast in audio and often video format on the internet, and transcripts are published. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

You may follow the progress of the inquiry from the Weekly Bulletin of House of Lords Select Committees. This is free, and may be ordered from Committee Office, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW, telephone 020 7219 6678. Alternatively, consult the UK Parliament website, at www.parliament.uk/hleuf

All communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed to the Chairman or the Clerk.

This is a public call for evidence aimed at reaching a wide cross-section of informed opinion. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy direct.

House of Lords
November 2010