

**EUROJUST**

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May 2008

# **Terrorism Convictions Monitor**

**EUROJUST Report**

Based on open sources information

**Issue 1**





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# I. Introduction

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## Why a Terrorism Convictions Monitor

With a view to the increasing involvement of EUROJUST in judicial co-operation matters related to terrorism as well as its active contribution to projects like Europol's TE-SAT Reports, the Case Management Team (CMT) has initiated the present **Terrorism Convictions Monitor**, intended to provide a regular overview of the respective developments throughout the EU area. The Monitor has been developed on the basis of the **open sources information** available to the CMT and methodologies such as individual case studies and comparative analysis. There is a link provided to each of the convictions and acquittals found on the EUROJUST Intranet External News or the Internet.

The general objective of the Terrorism Convictions Monitor is to inform and kindly invite the National Members to review and confirm the information retrieved from various open sources. In the cases when such a confirmation and/or follow-up is needed, a special icon  will appear. In cases when it has already been provided, it will be noted by a .

In order to facilitate the preparation of EUROJUST's contribution to the annual TE-SAT Report, the Terrorism Convictions Monitor will be issued in January, May and September.

## II. Terrorism Convictions Overview

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### 1. Terrorism Convictions by Member State January-April 2008



#### Austria

##### March 2008

██████████ a 21-year-old Austrian, and her 22-year-old Egyptian-born husband ██████████, were found guilty of "belonging to a terrorist organisation" with links to **Al-Qaeda**, trying to blackmail the Austrian government and inciting a crime. The man was given a 4-year term while his wife was sentenced to 22 months in prison for posting a video on the Internet that contained threats to target the European Football Championships, which Austria is hosting with Switzerland in June, as well as Austrian and foreign politicians.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



#### Belgium

##### January 2008

██████████, his brother ██████████, and a Flemish convert, ██████████ were found guilty of being part of a Brussels-based terrorist cell that sent ██████████, **Al-Qaeda's** first Western female suicide bomber in Iraq, to die. Their sentences range between 2 and 10 years.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



##### February 2008

The Anvers Court of Appeals ruled that the leftist DHKP-C was not a terrorist formation and acquitted seven members of the group of membership in a terrorist organisation. Three of them, including ██████████, were given suspended sentences of 2 years' imprisonment for possession of unlicensed weapons and fake documents. ██████████ herself had earlier been sentenced in absentia to 5 years in jail and is wanted in Turkey for involvement in the 1996 murder of a businessman.

Source: [Today's Zaman](#)



#### Denmark

##### March 2008

The Eastern High Court in Copenhagen acquitted for a second time ██████████, a 19-year-old Dane of Moroccan origin, of charges that he took part in a terrorism plot to blow up an unidentified target in Europe. He was acquitted of similar crimes in 2007 but then retried after prosecutors said they had found new evidence. It turned to be insufficient to link ██████████ to two men convicted in Bosnia of planning the terror attack aimed at forcing foreign troops to pull out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



The Danish Appeal Court acquitted the chair and the treasurer of the **Danish Al-Aqsa Foundation**, as well as the Danish Al-Aqsa Foundation as such, of the charges of terrorism financing. They were also acquitted by the lower court but for other reasons – with a more formal approach to the kind of evidence provided as regards the final receivers of the money. The Danish Appeal Court made a thorough assessment of the specific evidence and concluded that it had not been proved beyond reasonable doubt that the organisations that received the money were linked to **Hamas** in such a manner that they could be regarded as part of the organisation.

Source: *Danish National Desk*



### April 2008

The Supreme Court extended the prison terms of [REDACTED], adding 1 year to the terms (11, 11 and 4 years) they received from a lower court in November 2007 for preparing explosives for an alleged bomb plot in Denmark or abroad.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



### February 2008

[REDACTED] were sentenced by the 10th Paris Criminal Court to 5 and 4 years in prison respectively for belonging to **ETA** and, inter alia, for "criminal conspiracy to prepare an act of terrorism " and "possession of false documents".

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



[REDACTED], a former military commander of **ETA**, known by the name [REDACTED], was sentenced to 30 years in jail for the near-fatal shooting of a French gendarme in 2001. He was also accused of involvement in several deadly attacks in Spain. His accomplice in the shooting, [REDACTED], was given a 10-year sentence by the Paris Criminal Court.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



[REDACTED] were sentenced by the Special Court of Assizes to 13 and 10 years in prison respectively for two attacks on the flat and car of two police officers in 2003. They were charged with "destruction of others' property" by an explosive device and with "criminal conspiracy relating to a terrorist undertaking" and trialled in conformity with the law in cases of terrorism.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



### January 2008

An ex-functionary of the **PKK** who worked as a regional PKK leader in Bavaria from April 1994 to February 1995 was sentenced by the Berlin Court of Appeal to 2 years and 9 months in prison for his support to the radical course of the organisation.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



██████████ a 38-year-old German of Moroccan origin, was sentenced by the State Court in Schleswig to 5 years and 9 months in prison after he was found guilty of supporting a foreign terrorist organisation and founding one himself.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



### February 2008

██████████, a man of Jordanian origin, was convicted by the State Court in Schleswig of founding a terrorist organisation and sentenced to 2 years in prison as part of a plea deal with prosecutors. The man confessed that he had participated in online discussions about setting up a training camp in Sudan. According to prosecutors he founded the group in 2006 along with four other men. Among them was the group's ringleader, ██████████, convicted by the same court in January.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



## Netherlands

### January 2008

The Hague Appeals Court acquitted ██████████. of participating in a criminal and terrorist organisation. The Court concluded that the group "could not be considered a criminal and terrorist organisation, because no lasting and structured co-operation has been established, nor any shared ideology." The seven men were associates of ██████████ who is serving a life sentence for the 2004 murder of filmmaker Theo van Gogh. The court upheld a 15-year sentence on a separate charge for ██████████ and reduced the sentence ██████████ from 13 years to 15 months. Four of the remaining five men had already been freed, as they received sentences of less than 2 years because they played a supporting role in the network, called the **Hofstad group**. The fifth, ██████████, is serving a 4-year sentence for a separate terrorism conviction.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



### March 2008

A court in Rotterdam convicted a married couple to 3 years in prison for participation in a terrorist organisation, preparation of attacks and possession of dangerous firearms. The couple in the so-called Piranha II trial was part of the **Hofstad group**.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



## Spain

### January 2008

The High Court sentenced the former leader of the ETA, ██████████ to 30 years for ordering the assassination of Andalucía's chief prosecutor, ██████████ who has already been sentenced to serve more than 1000 years for previous convictions, refused to participate in the trial. The actual perpetrators of the murder were sentenced to serve 54 years each at their trial in October 2002.

Source: [ThinkSpain](#)



## February 2008

The court in charge of Operation Nova against Islamist terrorism convicted 18 people of membership of a terrorist organisation and 2 of collaboration, and acquitted 10 other. It was not proven that the Islamists wanted to attack the National High Court but it has been proven that they were forming terrorist cells in various Spanish prisons in 2004.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



## April 2008

The Constitutional Court turned down the appeal of [REDACTED] former spokesman of the outlawed **Batasuna** (ETA's political wing), who the Supreme Court sentenced to 15 months imprisonment for having taken part in a tribute to the ETA member [REDACTED]. In its ruling, the Constitutional Court refused to consider the appeal on the grounds of unconstitutionality lodged by [REDACTED] which means it did not even analyse the arguments presented in it.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



## Sweden

## April 2008

The Orebro District Court replaced the life sentence of [REDACTED], an Egyptian-born Palestinian, with a 30-year prison term. [REDACTED] was sentenced to life in prison for a Synagogue bombing and an attack against a U.S. airline office in Denmark that killed one person and left several injured in 1985. He was also found guilty of involvement in the bombing of an Israeli airline office in the Netherlands. He was an early suspect in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie. The latest decision of the court means that he could be released in 2 years because he started serving his term in 1990 and prisoners in Sweden are normally released after having served two-thirds of their sentences.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



## United Kingdom

## January 2008

[REDACTED] was found guilty at the Old Bailey of planning to fly to Pakistan with the intention of committing acts of terrorism. He was sentenced to 4,5 years after becoming the first person to be convicted under the law covering those caught preparing for terrorism.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



The prosecution has dropped the charge against [REDACTED] of conspiring to possess money for terrorist purposes.

Source: [BBC](#)



[REDACTED] were sentenced to 6 years in prison each for plotting a poison campaign in the name of a terrorist group calling itself the **Scottish National Liberation Army** in an attempt to convince the British Government to

withdraw from Scotland.

Source: [Sky News](#)



The Belfast Crown Court convicted [REDACTED] a member of the paramilitary organisation **The Continuity IRA**, and sentenced him to 9 years in prison for extortion and arms offences.

Source: [BBC](#)



## February 2008

The Kingston Crown Court convicted [REDACTED] of a total of 22 charges for failing to disclose information about terrorism and assisting an offender in relation to the 21/7 London bombings. [REDACTED] were also convicted of having prior knowledge of the plot to bomb the London transport network. [REDACTED] was jailed for 17 years, [REDACTED] was sentenced to 12 years and [REDACTED] were jailed for 10 years. [REDACTED] received a 7-year sentence.

Source: [Guardian](#)



[REDACTED] was acquitted of two bomb attacks after his case was reviewed in the wake of the [REDACTED] bomb trial. He had been charged with causing two explosions in October 2003 and in June 2004 but prosecutors said they would offer no evidence against him.

Source: [BBC](#)



Three Court of Appeal judges, led by the Lord Chief Justice, the head of the judiciary of England and Wales, overturned the convictions of five young Muslims for downloading extremist propaganda and questioned whether they should have ever been prosecuted for merely possessing such material. The five were the first people to have convictions for Islamist terrorism overturned since the Terrorism Act came into effect. The judges ordered that in future cases the Crown would have to prove that defendants clearly intended to engage in terrorism or that the items they possessed were of practical use to a terrorist.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



The Appeal Court ruled in favour of [REDACTED] who had appealed against a High Court ruling which had found that the Home Secretary had been right not to compensate him as a victim of a miscarriage of justice.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



The Leicester Crown Court convicted five men of terrorist offences related to a plot to kidnap and behead a British Muslim soldier. Four of the defendants had pleaded guilty prior to the start of the trial. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were convicted of engaging in conduct with the intention to commit acts of terrorism and [REDACTED] was also found guilty of possession of a document likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism. [REDACTED] was found guilty of a failure to disclose information relating to an act of terrorism. A



sixth person, [REDACTED], was acquitted of terrorist offences.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



A court in Woolwich convicted [REDACTED], a Tanzanian-born man who called himself [REDACTED] and **Al-Qaeda's** top representative in Europe, of soliciting murder and providing training in Britain for terrorists. He was found guilty of indoctrinating his followers and taking them to secret training camps to prepare them to fight abroad. According to anti-terrorism analysts, the conviction marks a major success for counterterrorism policing with [REDACTED] regarded as a key figure in extremist networks. The Woolwich Court convicted also [REDACTED], a former senior aide of the radical cleric [REDACTED], as well as five of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] followers: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for attending the terrorist training camps.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



### March 2008

Convicted **Real IRA** leader [REDACTED] won his fight for full legal aid to defend the multi-million pound [REDACTED] bomb compensation case. [REDACTED] is awaiting judgment in an appeal against a conviction in the Irish Republic for directing terrorism. He is one of five people named in the civil action being brought by relatives of some of the 29 bomb victims.

Source: [BBC](#)



The Leeds Crown Court convicted [REDACTED] a close friend of two 7/7 London bombers, for possessing an Al-Qaeda training manual and sentenced him to 16 months in prison. [REDACTED] admitted one charge of possessing a document or record containing information likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism.

Source: [Sky News](#)



### April 2008

The Kingston-upon-Thames Crown Court convicted [REDACTED] born as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] a British-born Muslim convert, and sentenced them to 4,5 years each for inciting and funding terrorism. The Court convicted also [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of inciting terrorism and jailed them for 3 and 2 years respectively. [REDACTED] were also found guilty of fundraising for terrorists and given 2 years imprisonment each. [REDACTED] were senior men in an extreme Islamic group known as the mujahideen and run by preacher [REDACTED], which believes in the worldwide dominance of Islam and Sharia law. They called for volunteers to fight against British and American troops in Iraq.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



## 2. Comparative Analysis

### Terrorism Convictions January-April 2008

#### Cases highlights

Terrorism related trials tend to be long, complex and attracting extensive public and media attention. Special investigation means are used to collect evidence and in the majority of the cases the defendants plead not guilty.

Several features have been identified as prominent in the convicts' strategy and tactics:

- Plotting against politicians, international organisations, national institutions and facilities (e.g. courts, train stations, stadiums, etc.) (Austria, Spain) or military personnel (United Kingdom);
- Money raising, recruitment, training and logistic support to suicide bombers and potential fighters (Belgium, Germany, United Kingdom);
- Use of Internet as a communication and discussion forum for like-minded as well as for collecting information on targets, posting videos, getting army manuals, etc. (Austria, Germany, United Kingdom). The use of Internet to raise funds for terrorism related activities has also been identified as an emerging trend.
- High mobility and development of a network of connections with Al-Qaeda and affiliated groups across Europe, the Middle East and Africa (Austria, Belgium, United Kingdom);
- Demand for withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan (Austria).

In some of the cases (Spain, United Kingdom) the European Arrest Warrant has been used to detain the defendants and in some trials Internet phone calls have played role as evidence (Germany).

Certain court rulings are of a particular interest since they might have potential implications on future convictions/acquittals:

- The ruling of a Dutch Appeals Court that a group can not be considered a criminal and terrorist organisation if no lasting and structured co-operation or shared ideology has been established and that the possession of radical texts does not justify the conclusion that those that carry them – even if they follow the philosophy they espouse – have the goal of carrying out violent acts in order to introduce Sharia law into the Netherlands and make it an Islamic state.
- The ruling of three Court of Appeal judges in the United Kingdom that it has to be proven that the defendants clearly intended to engage in terrorism or that the items they possessed were of practical use to a terrorist, thus ruling out the mere possession of materials as a serious criminal offence.
- The ruling of a Dutch court that the far-right Member of Parliament ████████ did not break the law when he used blasphemous language against the holy Quran in his film "Fitna" and that he, as a member of parliament, should be able to convey his views in public debate, even if they are considered harsh.

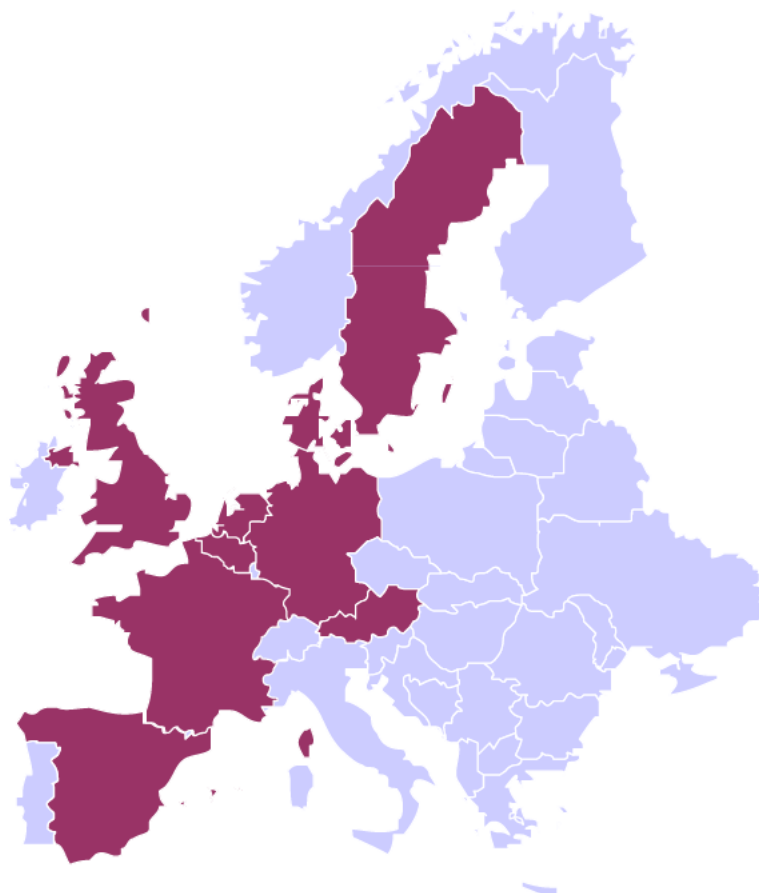
A distinctive aspect of the court rulings on terrorist offences is related to recruiting terrorists, training for acts of terrorism and provocation to commit acts of terrorism. Such rulings occurred in several member states over the period January-April 2008. They present a special interest with a view to the debate, ongoing within the EU, on the definition of “public provocation to commit terrorist offences” and the proposal to consider those three crimes, covering traditional and modern terrorist methods, when anti-terrorism legislation across the EU is amended.

A practical outcome of that is the agreement reached by the EU ministers at the April Justice and Home Affairs Council in Luxembourg to toughen anti-terrorist laws across the EU to punish the incitement of violence and the recruitment and training of people for terrorist attacks. This will help codify terrorist crimes among countries with different histories and experience with terrorism, with the goal of preventing radicalisation and helping police locate and arrest suspects in cross-border investigations. However, it will be the member states’ responsibility to assess their own legislation and decide on possible amendments needed as well as on the severity of the sentences for terrorism related crimes.

According to the above-mentioned agreement dissemination of terrorist propaganda through Internet for recruiting, training and bomb-making purposes shall also be considered crime (*the next issue of the TCM will analyse in detail this particular phenomenon*).

#### **Member States with convictions**

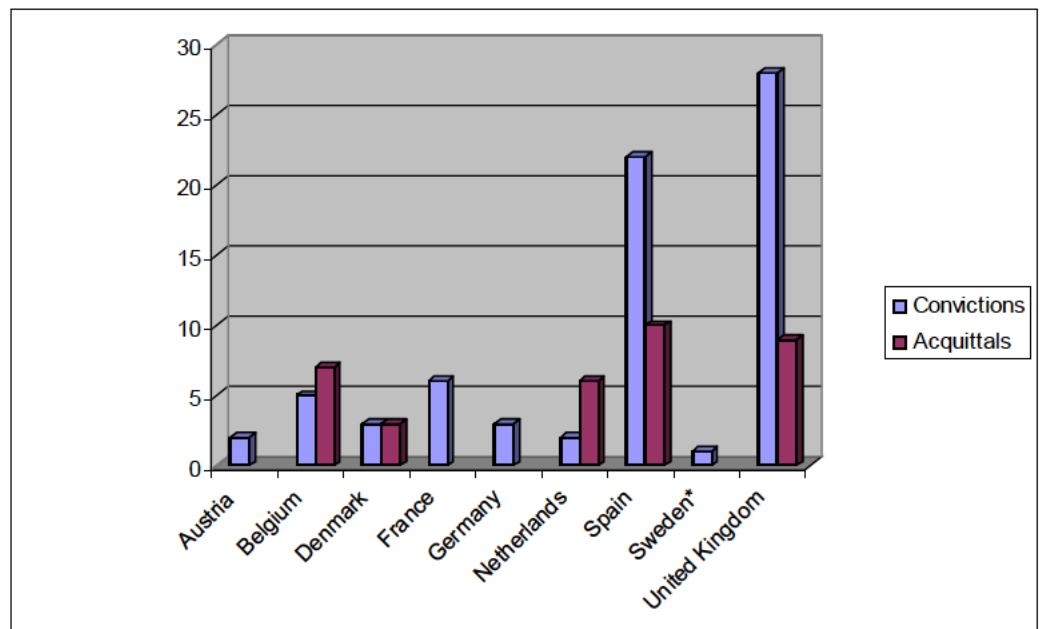
Terrorism related trials in several EU member states have resulted in convictions/acquittals in the period January-April 2008 (see map below).



The convictions/acquittals concern terrorist offences committed in the period 1985-2007 and are associated with both Islamist and nationalist terrorism. The related acts of terrorism were intended or committed in Europe and in Asia and targeted both people and infrastructure.

Based on the information available in the open sources, several comparative charts have been drawn to illustrate some facts of particular interest:

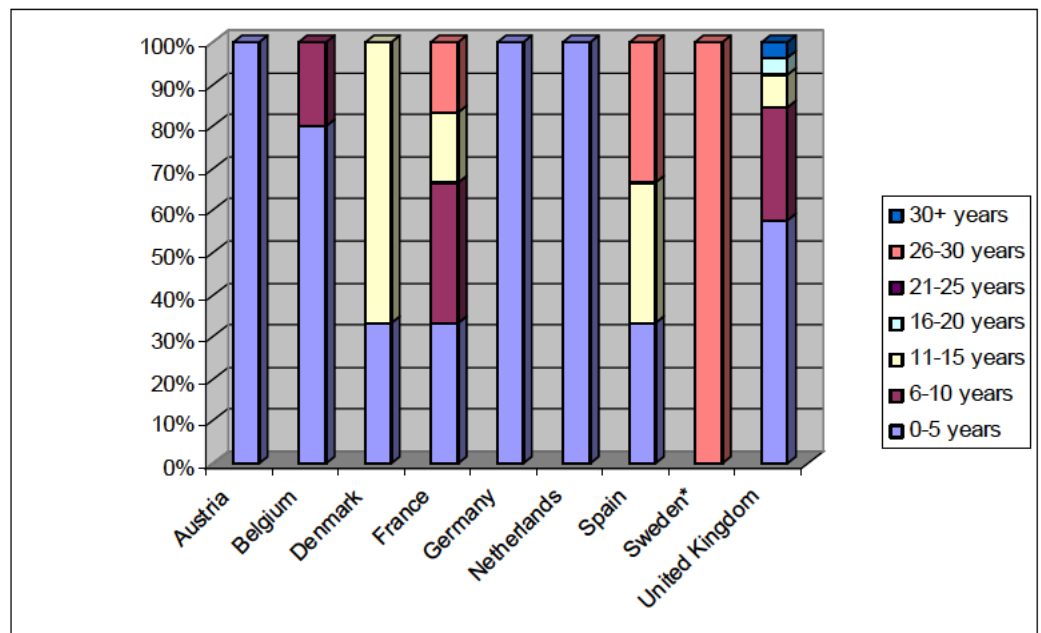
**Number of convictions/acquittals per member state**



*The chart illustrates the information, available in the open sources, regarding the number of convictions/acquittals per member state over the period January-April 2008.*

*\* Sweden appears in the current and following chart as a Swedish court has reduced the life sentence of a convict to 30 years imprisonment.*

## Length of sentences

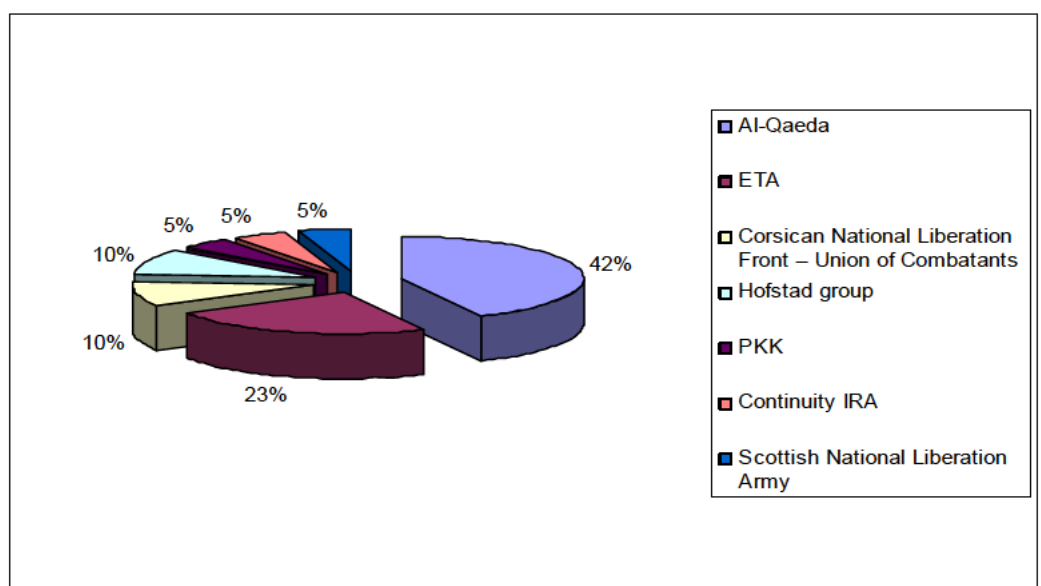


The chart illustrates the information, available in the open sources, regarding the length of terrorism related sentences per member state over the period January-April 2008.

## Affiliation of convicts

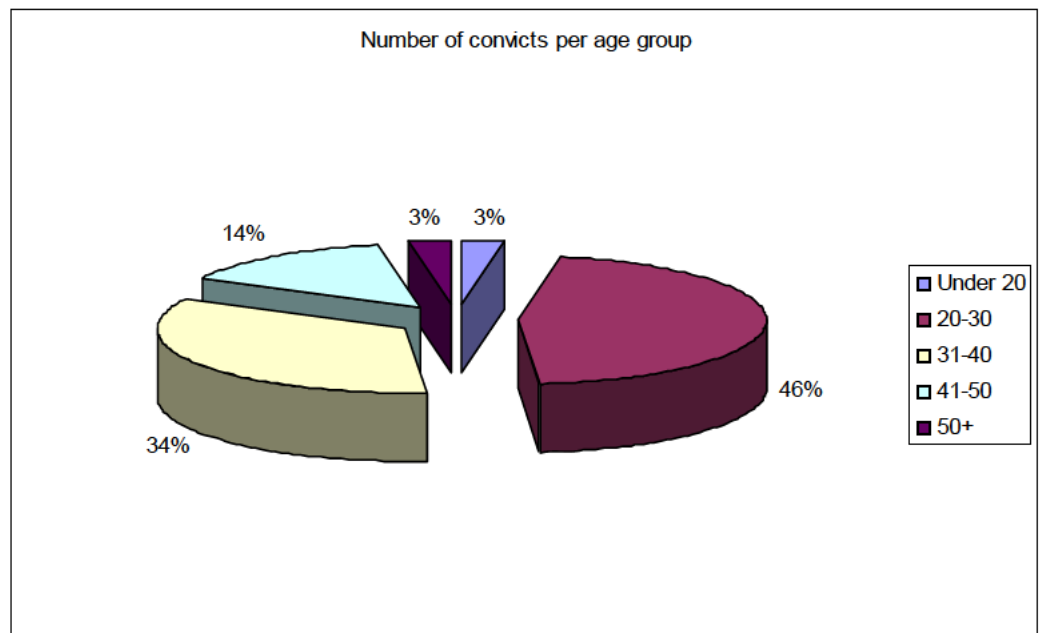
Links to organisations:

Al-Qaeda	9
ETA	5
Corsican National Liberation Front – Union of Combatants	2
Hofstad group	2
PKK	1
Continuity IRA	1
Scottish National Liberation Army	1



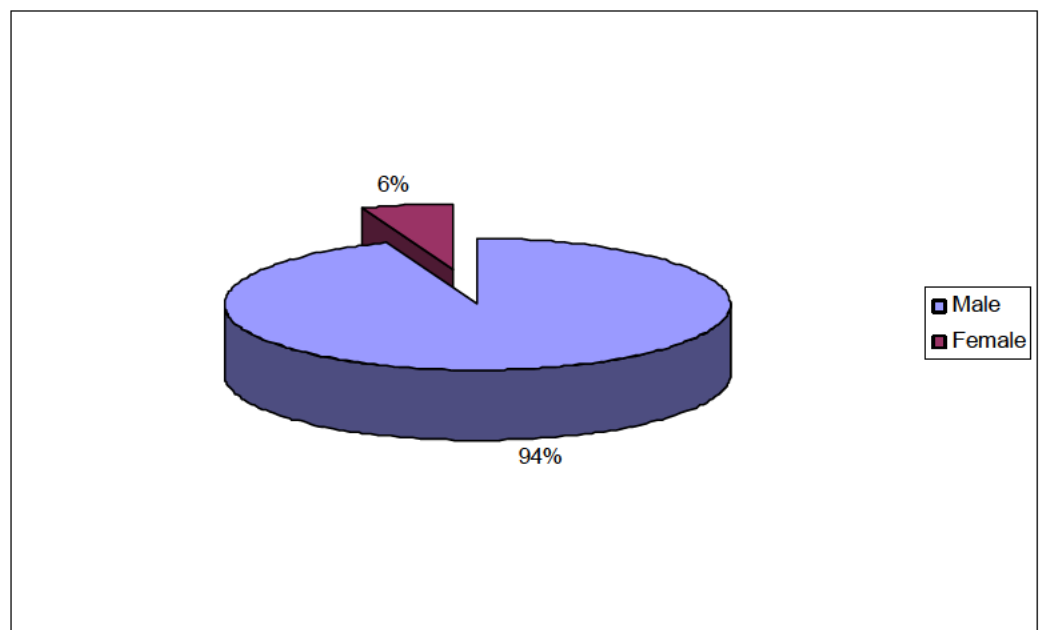
The chart illustrates the information, available in the open sources, regarding the affiliation of convicts, in cases when it was expressly stated.

## Age of convicts



*The chart illustrates the information, available in the open sources, regarding the age of convicts in the EU member states over the period January-April 2008.*

## Gender of convicts



*The chart illustrates the information, available in the open sources, regarding the gender of convicts in the EU member states over the period January-April 2008.*

### 3. Comparative Study

#### Convictions of a particular crime type

##### Membership to a Terrorist Organisation

*The present comparative study is based on the deliberate selection of convictions of a particular crime type, **founding/membership/belonging to a terrorist organisation/group/cell**, as it is the most common for all member states and is of a particular interest from an analytical point of view.*

Membership (founding, belonging) to a terrorist organisation (group, cell) has been the most reoccurring crime in all the member states where terrorism related convictions have been pronounced. The analysis of the information available in the open sources has been conducted on a case-by-case basis and focused on several attributes:

- Type of organisation;
- Goals of the organisation;
- Other peculiarities;
- Sentences.

##### Types of organisation

In most of the cases (Austria, Belgium, Germany) the convicted were found guilty of founding/membership/ belonging to a terrorist organisation/group/cell that was linked or supported a major terrorist organisation (e.g. Al-Qaeda). In the case of the conviction in France, the sentenced belonged to ETA, and in the Netherlands – to the so-called Hofstad group.

##### Goals of the organisation

Terrorist propaganda, attempts to recruit fighters, terrorist training and fund raising were among the main goals of the terrorist activists (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Spain). In Austria, for example, the actions of the convicted were aimed at forcing the Austrian and German governments to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan (for information, Austria has only 3 liaison officers in Afghanistan while Germany has about 3 200 troops deployed there).

##### Other peculiarities

The majority of the convicted were foreign nationals (mainly of Arab origin), some of which in possession of a European citizenship (Austria, Germany). Except for the case of ETA members in France, the defendants were convicted of terrorist activities classified as Islamist. In the case of the Brussels based cell, there was also a Flemish convert.

A closer look at the *modus operandi* of the organisations revealed that Internet was widely used as a communication channel for both recruiting and training followers as well as for communication with cells in other countries and gathering information from government sources (Austria, Belgium, Germany). In Spain the convicted had created a Jihad terror cell in prison, while serving time for other crimes, and were communicating by letters in an attempt to recruit other prisoners for terrorism.

Another particular aspect, related to the returning Jihadist phenomenon, has been detected in Belgium where the convicted not only recruited and provided logistic support to suicide bombers for Iraq but also fought in Iraq themselves.

### **Sentences**

Apart from founding/membership/belonging to a terrorist organisation/group/cell, some of the defendants were also convicted for supporting a foreign terrorist organisation (Germany), plotting attacks and possession of dangerous fire arms (the Netherlands), document forgery (Spain).

The sentences they were given vary from 2 to 14 years.

The length of sentences is summarised in the chart below.

<b>Member state</b>	<b>Number of convicted</b>	<b>Shortest sentence</b>	<b>Longest sentence</b>
Austria	2	1.9	4
Belgium	5	2.3	10
France	2	4	5
Germany	2	2	5.9
Netherlands	2	3	3
Spain	18	N.A.	14



## III. Legal Update

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### 1. EU



#### January 2008

The EU and the Algerian-based African Union Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism announced a €1 million project to intensify counter-terrorism co-operation.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)

#### March 2008

Regulation of the European Commission (EC) No 220/2008 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 881/2002 and its Annex I imposing restrictive measures directed against persons and entities associated with [REDACTED] the Al-Qaeda network and the Taliban.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)

DIRECTIVE 2008/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2005/60/EC on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)

#### April 2008

Annulment by the Court of First Instance of the Council Decision 2002/460/EC of 17 June 2002 implementing Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism and repealing Decision 2002/334/EC in so far as it concerns the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Source: [External News Intranet](#)

Consensus reached by the EU Ministers of Justice on the text of the proposal to amend the 2002 Council Framework Decision on combating terrorism. The proposal introduces new criminal offences into EU law: public incitement to commit terrorist acts, recruiting for terrorism and training for terrorism.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 374/2008 of 24 April 2008 amending for the 94th time Council Regulation (EC) No 881/2002 and its Annex I imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities associated with Usama bin Laden, the Al-Qaeda network and the Taliban.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)

Council Decisions 2008/342/EC and 2008/343/EC of 29 April 2008 amending Decision 2007/868/EC implementing Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific

restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)

Council Common Positions 2008/346/CFSP and 2008/347/CFSP of 29 April 2008 amending Common Position 2007/871/CFSP updating Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)

## 2. EU Member States Overview



### Austria

#### March 2008

Agreement with Switzerland on trans-border co-operation in air security matters related to non-military threats, including acts of terrorism.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



### Bulgaria

#### February 2008

Amendments in the Special Surveillance Means Act, the Aliens in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Measures against the Financing of Terrorism Act, the Measures against Money Laundering Act, the Customs Act, the Ministry of Interior Act, the Spatial Development Act, the Classified Information Safeguarding Act and the Protection of Individuals at Risk in Relation to Criminal Proceedings Act, all in relation to the creation of the State Agency for National Security.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



### Finland

#### April 2008

New anti-terrorism strategy with tighter legislation to go into effect in early May that includes more measures to prevent terrorist attacks and considers planning and supporting a terrorist attack also a crime.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



### Germany

#### February 2008

Resolution by the German government to combat more effectively money laundering and financing of terrorism by applying the measures against money laundering to the financing of terrorism. This might lead to the amendment of the laws on money laundering, the banking system and insurance control, as well as the Criminal Code.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)

A court decision allowing the German police to monitor, via Internet, the computers of persons suspected of terrorism. These police measures, which will allow the



investigators to scan from a distance the suspects' computers, can be applied in cases of concrete threats to human lives or to the state and must be authorised by a judge.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)

### **March 2008**

German-US Data Exchange Agreement initiated to regulate the exchange of information on potential terrorists as well as DNA data and fingerprints.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)



### **Spain**

### **February 2008**

A 3-year suspension ordered by a Spanish judge against the Basque Nationalist Action, known as ANV, and the Communist Party of the Basque Lands, known as PCTV, as part of a broader effort by authorities to crack down on ETA and its numerous sources of support.

Source: [CNN](#)



### **United Kingdom**

### **January 2008**

Anti-Terrorism Bill allowing the police to hold terrorist suspects for more than 28 days without charge.

Source: [External News Intranet](#)

## IV. Conclusions

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The analysis of the information on terrorism convictions, available in the open sources, has led to the identification of several main conclusions that summarise the key findings and general trends detected:

- Enhanced networking capacity of terrorist activists resulting from high mobility opportunities and use of Internet as means of interaction;
- Particular importance of acquittals as a reference for future judgments;
- Growing awareness of the complexity of the terrorist threat among the EU member states resulting in individual attempts to amend national laws and procedures, bilateral agreements as well as in concerted efforts to update the legislation on the EU level in order to achieve a more coherent and proactive approach to terrorism related offences;
- Continuous attention to human rights issues related to court procedures and legislation amendments.

## V. The Way Ahead

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With a view to a more structured approach to the preparation of EUROJUST's contribution to the TE-SAT 2009, the CMT has been following the current developments in several trials where convictions are expected within the next few months. They include *inter alia*:



BE

An appeal of the sentences of four of the members of **the Brussels-based terrorist cell** that sent [REDACTED] to commit a suicide attack in Iraq.



DK

A trial against two militant Islamists for intending to carry out a bomb attack.



DE

A trial at the Düsseldorf Regional Appeals Court against a Lebanese, [REDACTED], for attempted murder and attempt to cause an explosion (the so-called "suitcase bomber trial") as well as a trial against a Moroccan, [REDACTED], charged with helping recruit men for **Al-Qaeda** to fight in Iraq.



FR

A trial against [REDACTED], a French jihadist, accused of recruiting fighters in France to join the insurgency in Iraq as well as a trial against the **19<sup>th</sup> arrondissement cell** intending to commit acts of terrorism.



IE

A Supreme Court appeal trial of [REDACTED], founder of the **Real IRA** fraction, of his "directing terrorism" conviction.



IT

A Court d'Assise of Appeal process against [REDACTED], condemned in first stage to 7 and 5 years of prison, accused of being part of the **DHKP-C** and claimed to be the authors of attacks to Istanbul from Italy.



NL

A Rotterdam Court trial against a Pakistani national suspected of involvement in an international terror network which was plotting attacks in Western Europe.



ES

A trial at Spain's National Court against ten men for their alleged role in plotting suicide attacks against Barcelona's transport system as well as a trial against [REDACTED], the convicted leader of Al-Qaeda in Spain, [REDACTED] for financing terrorist cells.



SE

A trial against two men suspected of collecting funds for an extremist Islamist organisation, **Al-Shabaab**, that were to be used in terrorist attacks.

Any further developments, resulting in convictions in the above-mentioned or any other trials, will be presented in the next edition of the Terrorism Convictions Monitor. The National Members are kindly requested to share, as appropriate, with the CMT any information that they deem relevant and helpful in drafting the TE-SAT 2009.



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## Appendix: Contact and Analyst Team

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Contact



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Analysts Team

