EU Terrorism Directive

In December 2015, the European Commission proposed a Directive on combating terrorism. The proposal was drafted in two weeks, with no impact assessment. Since then, the legislative process has been rushed through. Provisions that undermine human rights online and offline have been added.

On 17 November 2016, the Terrorism Directive was agreed in “trilogue” discussions. The basis for the negotiations between the three EU institutions was the European Commission’s proposal, the “General Approach” of the Council, and the “Orientation vote” text in the Civil Liberties Committee (LIBE) of the European Parliament.

The central challenge for human rights in 2016 is ensuring governments continue to support a human rights agenda despite the rise of violent extremism and extremist thinking. Any more repressive approach will have the reverse effect of reinforcing the narrative of extremist ideologies.

Report by Ben Emmerson, UN Special Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism And Human Rights, 22 February 2016

The Terrorism Directive that citizens deserve

Only a Directive that respects human rights will achieve real security (not just a false sense of security), ensure innocent people won’t be categorised as possible terrorists, enable us to keep our privacy and allow us to express ourselves freely without fear of sanctions and repression.

WHAT ARE “TRILOGUES”?

Triilogues are not mentioned in the EU treaties. They are informal closed-door meetings between the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament to work towards an agreement. Triilogues get no public attention.

After a political agreement is reached in triilogues, it is almost impossible to change a single word in the Terrorism Directive.

Is this democratic?

POLITICAL AGREEMENT

Now the text that was agreed in the triilogues will be voted in the Council. Then it will be sent to the LIBE Committee and finally to the plenary of the European Parliament for approval.