

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The fifth issue of the journal “Terrorism – Studies, Analyses, Prevention” (T-SAP) is published on the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on Madrid’s urban transport system. The tragic events of 11 March 2004 remain the largest attack on European Union territory in terms of fatalities and injuries. Their emergence contributed to the development of the EU counter-terrorism policy framework. Among other things, the post of a EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator was created at the time and the first EU counter-terrorism action plan was adopted. Several months after the attacks, the Counter-Terrorism Department – a separate counter-terrorism division – was created within the Internal Security Agency. Every year, 11 March is a reminder of the need to continue to take action against extremism and terrorism and the need to raise public awareness of these threats. To commemorate the victims of the Madrid attack, four of whom were Poles, 11 March is the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism. We begin the next issue of T-SAP with a reminder of these events. In the article entitled *Twenty years after the Madrid attacks. Spain’s anti-terrorist security issues*, you will find a description of the course of the attack and an analysis of its political and social impact.

This issue also discusses the Wagner Group’s activities in Africa and its impact on the fight against terrorism on that continent, given that the presence of Russian mercenaries there has increased significantly in recent years. We hope that this study will reignite the discussion on the legitimacy of including such entities on the EU list of terrorist organisations.

The following article, which we would like to invite you to read, is the first scientific analysis of specific individual restrictive measures adopted in Poland in the context of the war in Ukraine and the situation in Belarus. The text discusses the relationship between national and EU restrictive measures and the rationale for including entities supporting Russian actions in Ukraine on Poland's sanctions list.

Recent months have seen the most rapid development of artificial intelligence technologies. In an article on large language models such as ChatGPT, the authors describe the new possibilities provided by such modern technologies and how they can be used in jihadist terrorism and crime.

We also encourage you to read the review of the monograph entitled *Autonomous Systems in Maritime Operations*. This is the first study in Polish to discuss so comprehensively the challenges of protecting seaports and maritime strategic infrastructure from the hostile use of autonomous floating vehicles for sabotage and terrorist activity.

By creating a space within T-SAP to talk about how to prevent, counter and combat terrorist threats, the journal's pages serve to initiate interesting discussions among security experts. Read the text on the need for a new approach to risk assessment of critical infrastructure in the light of asymmetric threats and terrorism. Standardisation and certification of organisational and technical solutions under the CER Directive, including technical measures to ensure physical security, will play a particular role in this effort.

Polish state institutions, research centres or think tanks take part in many counter-terrorism initiatives funded by the EU or NATO. We would like the results of these projects to be presented also in T-SAP. One of them is the APPRAISE project, which is an element of building a security system for public spaces.

In the last section of the magazine, we publish an interview with a former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counterterrorism at the White House, who talked about the changes in counter-terrorism in the United States

introduced after the 11 September 2001 attack and shared more than three decades of experience he had gained while serving.

Inviting you to read the fifth issue of T-SAP, I hope that the materials presented in it will influence the discussion on Polish counter-terrorism priorities to be adopted for implementation during the next Polish Presidency of the EU Council in the first half of 2025. The previous Polish chairmanship of the counter-terrorism working groups was recognised by experts in the field of internal security from EU countries as one of the best in the period 2010-2020.

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