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## Statement of the Presidium on the Terrorist Attack in Strasbourg

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### Ordre du jour provisoire

Dear members,

CESI vehemently condemns the terrorist attack of December 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 in Strasbourg. The attack hit a city which symbolizes the quintessence of European culture and values.

It is now more important than ever to stand firmly for democracy and fundamental principles of the European Union and to efficiently fight radicalization and terrorism both through preventive and repressive measures while respecting fundamental rights and the rule of law as enshrined by national constitution and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The European Agenda on Security should remain at the core of the approach and more efforts must be made to ensure mutual trust and cooperation between law enforcement authorities both within and among Member States, as mentioned in its 17<sup>th</sup> Progress [Report](#) towards an effective and genuine Security Union, published on the day of the attack. In the report, tackling terrorism is identified as one of the main objectives of the EU.

CESI believes that the way forward should focus on two aspects. Firstly, to make better use of the visible progress made by the adoption of further legislation on the Schengen Information System, the Passenger Name Record and the use of databases. In this context, it would be important to reach an agreement on the legislative proposals on the interoperability and exchange of data from EURODAC, the Visa Information System and the European Criminal Records Information System. Secondly, initiatives such as the Radicalisation Awareness Network ([RAN](#)) Centre of Excellence should be further supported for the valuable evidence potential they may bring. In fighting terrorism, the EU's clear added value lies in efficient cross-border coordination and cooperation of police forces, criminal justice systems and the civil society.

CESI emphasizes the importance of further strengthening mutual trust between EU and national law enforcement and judicial authorities so to strengthen the effectiveness of cross-border cooperation, joint investigation teams (JITS), EUROPOL, EUROJUST and the European Judicial Network. Finally, CESI also supports efforts which aim at the approximation of criminal procedural law and the definition of criminal offenses and sanctions for serious crimes with a cross-border dimension.