

# Countering Hybrid Threats on Agenda of Finnish Council Presidency



## News

**Thomas Wahl**

Finland, which took up the Council Presidency on 1 July 2019, plans to increase awareness of hybrid threats and to reinforce the EU's common response to them. At the [informal meeting of the home affairs ministers](#) of the EU Member States in Helsinki on 18 July 2019, the Finnish Presidency presented a fictitious scenario involving hybrid threats and invited the ministers to hold a policy debate about how capacities for the mutual assistance of EU Member States can be strengthened.

Hybrid threats are methods or activities that are multidimensional, combine coercive and subversive measures, use both conventional and unconventional tools and tactics, and are coordinated by state or non-state actors. They include cyberattacks, election interference, and disinformation campaigns. Nowadays, social media platforms are often used for such manipulations.

In a [background paper](#), the Finnish Presidency states that “rapidly evolving hybrid threats are a challenge to security in Europe. They often target wider areas than a single member state and can undermine the unity of the EU.”

In this context, Finland would like to strengthen resilience, build up awareness, foster coordination and comprehensive responses across administrative boundaries, and increase cooperation with partners (e.g., the NATO). The goal is also to integrate the various actions and cooperation mechanisms that the EU institutions and the Member States have already started in different policy fields over the last several years. Therefore, further scenario-based debates are planned during the Presidency, involving other policy fields, such as finance, defence, and external relations, besides home affairs.

### AUTHOR

**Thomas Wahl**

Senior Researcher  
Max Planck Institute for the  
Study of Crime, Security and  
Law

---

ISSN: 1862-6947

<https://eucrim.eu>

---



---

## About eucrim

eucrim is the leading journal which regularly informs about current developments in European criminal and “criministrative” law.

All news items are freely accessible at: <https://eucrim.eu/news/>

Stay informed by emailing to [eucrim-subscribe@csl.mpg.de](mailto:eucrim-subscribe@csl.mpg.de) to receive alerts for new releases of issues.

The project is co-financed by the Union Anti-Fraud Programme (UAFP), managed by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).



Co-funded by  
the European Union