

## Ladies and Gentlemen!

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When we began work on our next issue of the journal “Terrorism – Studies, Analyses, Prevention” (T-SAP) a few months ago, we did not expect this edition to be so relevant in terms of the topics it covers. The materials presented in it are in line with current research and practical needs related to the dynamically changing reality, including in the area of terrorist threats, and the issues addressed concern the vital challenges facing the institutions responsible for security.

Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, we have seen an intensification of active operations carried out in European Union countries by Russian special services and their proxies against commercial, water and sewage facilities, and strategic infrastructure in the transport, energy and communications sectors. This has been the subject of numerous analyses. It is worth mentioning a report prepared in 2025 by renowned think tanks – Slovak GLOBCES and Dutch ICCT. It presents clear data on the hybrid activities of the Russian Federation in Europe, including in Poland, carried out, among others, with the support of criminal groups. These activities also include terrorist offences. We publish statistics on the number of people held in penitentiary units, among other things, in connection with activities for foreign intelligence services and crimes of this kind. An example of this are the acts of sabotage targeting Polish railway infrastructure, which took place on 15–17 November 2025 on the strategic transport line from Warsaw to Dorohusk, on the border with Ukraine. In this issue of T-SAP, you will find material – highly relevant in this context – on building the resilience of the European railway sector to hybrid threats and the role of Poland in

this area. Representative Office of PKP S.A. (Polskie Koleje Państwowe) in Brussels is taking many measures at EU level that are effectively improving safety in this sector. It covers many elements, one of the key ones being railway stations. The issue of their protection in Poland is the subject of a unique book published in 2025 by the War Studies University. The monograph entitled *Paradigm of railway station security*, which we are reviewing here, deserves attention not only from security and defence experts, but also from anyone interested in the functioning of the railways as part of the state's critical infrastructure. To conclude the main theme of this issue, namely threats in the transport sector, I encourage you to read an article presenting the history of attacks on London's public transport system in 2005. They were among the most tragic acts of terrorism in Europe. Among the numerous victims were three Polish women. These events have had a significant impact on changing the approach to counter-terrorism at national and EU level.

In T-SAP, we regularly present strategic documents concerning the fight against terrorism. This time the experts discussed this year's most important Europol, Eurojust and CSIRT GOV reports. Their analysis provides a better understanding of the scale and dynamics of changes in the phenomenon of terrorism, identifies challenges and good practices in combating it and highlights the importance of international cooperation.

In the previous issue, we included a comment on the amendment to the Polish Act on anti-terrorist activities in connection with counteracting the dissemination of terrorist content on the internet. Continuing this theme, in this issue we publish an interview with the director of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, who talks about combating terrorist and extremist content in the digital space and the role of this body (which brings together over 30 of the world's largest technology companies) in strengthening international security.

We also continue to address the issue of gaps in the actions of European Union countries in the area of counter-terrorism.

One of these gaps is the possibility of using biological agents for terrorist acts against agri-food sector. This risk remains underestimated in the security policies of many countries, especially in terms of assessing the likelihood of its occurrence and potential consequences. The article devoted to the issue of bioterrorism shows how important it is to strengthen the capacity of countries to respond effectively to biological threats. The content presented in it is forward-looking and provides a direction for further analysis and scientific research. The article on the ability of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland to eliminate contamination fits into the area of issues related to resistance to biological threats, as well as chemical and radioactive threats. Its author proposes the modernisation of equipment, standardisation of procedures and strengthening of cooperation between the military and non-military entities.

We strive to support projects and initiatives that build and strengthen resilience to terrorist acts. We welcome the creation of guidelines for local governments on protecting public spaces from attacks using vehicles. These were prepared by the Ministry of the Interior and Administration and the National Police Headquarters with the support of other institutions in the counter-terrorism system in Poland. Considering how important these recommendations are, especially during the Christmas and New Year period, when seasonal fairs are organised, attracting large crowds, we asked the co-author of this project to discuss it. It is worth noting that among the expert sources cited in these guidelines are studies published in T-SAP.

We are pleased that our efforts are also recognised abroad. It is a nice touch to receive congratulations from Edward Lucas – a global authority on hybrid activities carried out by the Russian Federation towards NATO countries. He praised the special edition of T-SAP devoted to the protection of critical infrastructure against terrorist and sabotage activities, prepared by the Internal Security Agency and the Government Centre for Security. This is further proof that we are moving in the right direction. This is possible thanks to our authors, reviewers, members of the Academic Editor Board as well as

the efforts of the editorial team, whom I would like to thank for their commitment and professionalism.

Finally, I would like to welcome Aleksandra Komar, PhD, who has become the deputy editor-in-chief and, together with the team, has co-authored this issue of T-SAP. I am convinced that thanks to her support, the journal will develop more intensively, not only in scientific terms.

Editor-in-Chief  
Damian Szlachter, PhD