Ladies and Gentlemen!

We are pleased to present to you the 9th issue of the magazine 'Terrorism – Studies, Analyses, Prevention' (T-SAP), which, within a few years of this project's launch, has gained recognition beyond Poland, particularly in NATO and European Union countries. We are proud that T-SAP is featured in presentations by European law enforcement agencies as expert material worthy of regular reading. At the same time, we are working intensively with the entire Editorial Team to meet all the requirements for highly ranked scientific journals. You can see these changes both on the Publishing House's subpage (www.abw.gov/wyd) and in the membership of the Academic Editor Board, which has recently welcomed representatives from the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (Hybrid CoE), the NATO Counter Intelligence Centre of Excellence (CI COE) and the NATO Centre of Excellence – Defence Against Terrorism (COE-DAT).

In this issue of T-SAP, the dominant theme is violent extremism and radicalisation, which lead to terrorist activities. That is why it opens with an article devoted to the new EU Agenda for Preventing and Combating Terrorism. This is a strategic document, adopted in February 2026, which will shape the approach to terrorist threats and violent extremism within the EU and its Member States for the next few years. It reflects what we also see in Poland – a gradual shift away from traditional, physical terrorist threats toward threats that take on a hybrid form or occur exclusively in digital environment. This translates into priorities in the fight against terrorism in the EU, including threat forecasting, preventing radicalisation, protecting citizens online, protecting citizens

from physical attacks, and responding directly to threats and attacks, as well as cooperation with international partners. In this issue of T-SAP, we describe a practical aspect of the cooperation, highlighting the achievements of the two-year Portuguese Presidency in one of the EU's counterterrorism initiatives – the European High Risk Security Network (EU-HRSN). The Internal Security Agency is a founding member of this network, which brings together special uniformed units and high-risk intervention units.

In the pages of T-SAP, we have repeatedly addressed difficult topics where the lack of access to reliable data poses a major obstacle to subjecting them to critical analysis and describing them in a scientific article. This time, you will read about a terrorism in Russia, treated as a political tool used by the Kremlin at the national, regional and international level.

The article shows how Moscow 'constructs' a narrative of the fight against terrorism in order to justify its military actions, strengthen social control and build influence beyond the state's borders – in Central Asia, Middle East and Africa.

In the previous issue of T-SAP, we discussed the protection of public spaces in Poland against vehicle-borne attacks and presented the recommendations for local authorities issued by the Ministry of the Interior and Administration (these were drawn up by police experts in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Administration and the Internal Security Agency, taking into account the experiences of other countries). These recommendations have been implemented in Poland when designing security measures for selected Christmas markets organised in December 2025. In this issue, at the request of our readers, we explore the practical aspects of building resilience to such attacks. We discuss the vulnerability of open public spaces to them, as well as the importance of risk analysis, the assessment of access routes, research standards relating to counter-terrorism security measures, and the interpretation of crash-tests results. Importantly, we highlight the most common mistakes made during the design, installation and operation of VSBs (vehicle security barriers).

We will return to this subject once again, following the adoption of the *Draft Regulation of the Council of Ministers on minimum requirements for the security of critical infrastructure in terms of physical, technical, personal, cybersecurity, legal and business continuity aspects*. It addresses issues relating to the technical aspects of securing facilities against vehicle-borne attacks (the draft is part of a fundamental amendment to the Act on crisis management signed on 19 June 2026).

Our readers encourage us to publish the research papers prepared by the domestic and foreign practitioners. They rarely feature in the public debate on improving counter-terrorism measures or counter-terrorism tactics. In this issue, we present experiences in building airports' resilience to contemporary threats, including those of a terrorist nature, from two perspectives: national and international. We hope you will find inspiration here to develop your skills or pursue your professional passions.

In any debate on the effectiveness of national counter-terrorism systems in the Euro-Atlantic community, the question arises as to which country has the most effective measures in place to deal with the terrorist threats it faces. We will not be able to answer this question unless we apply the appropriate methods for assessing the effectiveness of the counter-terrorism objectives adopted in a given country or region. We are therefore publishing an excerpt from the bachelor's thesis that was recognised in this year's contest of the Head of the Internal Security Agency for the best doctoral, master's or bachelor's thesis on state security in the context of intelligence, terrorist and economic threats. This thesis examines the security policies of France and Belgium in response to terrorist threats between 2015 and 2016, a period during which Paris and Brussels experienced the most tragic terrorist attacks in European history. It represents an important contribution by a young author to the debate on the effectiveness of European counter-terrorism systems.

In Europe, the main driving force behind violent extremism is the phenomenon of the radicalisation of views and attitudes among young people, which has also been observed

and studied in ever greater detail in Poland. We encourage you to read the conclusions drawn from both the *Youth Diagnosis 2026* report and the conference 'New factors influencing the radicalisation of young people from a national security perspective', which was organised at the Internal Security Agency in April 2026. According to the researchers studying this phenomenon in Poland, the central issue underlying the development of violent extremism is the tension between technological development and the psychosocial safety of young people, with particular emphasis on the mechanisms leading to radicalisation, which may result in acts of a terrorist nature.

Today, the uniformed services are exploring ways to utilise artificial intelligence to maintain public order, internal security, protection the country's land, sea and air borders. We encourage you to read a review of one of the latest publications on the Polish publishing market, which addresses the role of AI in preventing terrorist threats. All the more so as this review was written by an expert who is an international authority in this field.

We also discuss a publication that has been the most frequently cited material from the Internal Security Agency worldwide for years. This refers to a report, published after a long break, setting out the key measures taken by the Agency in the field of Polish internal security. The current edition covers the years 2024–2025 and also describes the counter-terrorism activities of this service, including the identification of violent extremism and radicalisation processes that could lead to terrorist offences, the protection of critical infrastructure against sabotage and subversion, countering the crossing of the Polish-Belarusian border by individuals from countries posing a high terrorist risk, and conducting criminal investigations into terrorist activities targeting the citizens and the interests of the Republic of Poland at home and abroad.

We encourage you to read the articles that illustrate how contemporary threats are changing and how our thinking about security is evolving. Terrorism, violent extremism,

radicalisation, hybrid operations and sabotage are increasingly occurring side by side or intermingling with one another. That is precisely why we need reliable analyses, careful conclusions and ongoing discussion on how to effectively identify and mitigate the threats facing Poland and its allies today.

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