



Bundeskriminalamt



**60 Years of the BKA:
The field of contention between freedom and security**

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**Federal security architecture from the perspective of the
states – the role of central agencies in an integrating Europe**

Abstract

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The most recent incidents surrounding the so-called "Zwickau Terror Cell" have given rise to a political discussion about the security architecture in the Federal Republic of Germany. The structures of the State Offices for the Protection of the Constitution have primarily become the focus of this debate. The federal structures of the security authorities have been questioned and, amongst other measures, the merging of the Offices for the Protection of the Constitution has been demanded.

However, in the overall picture the federal structures of the police forces and the intelligence services have long proved their value. The State Offices for the Protection of the Constitution, but also the police authorities of the Federation and the states are doing excellent work; they repeatedly succeeded in uncovering and thwarting attack plans.

The central agencies of the Federation and the states in federal security architecture will play an increasingly important role in an integrating Europe. Thus, the most urgent task of the central agencies must be the establishment of networks between the authorities responsible for internal security, the authorities of other Departments and non-governmental institutions within the framework of the society-oriented approach. The central agencies of the Federation have this task at global and European level; the central agencies of the states in principle have this task at state level.

Ensuring security is a core task of every state. In view of the constantly growing international character of crime, a nationally or even regionally oriented crime suppression is not sufficient. The consequences of globalisation, such as open borders within Europe, require global security strategies. Against this background, security partnerships in particular gain importance.

Globalisation provides opportunities but also risks. This applies in particular to international terrorism and cross-border crime, which are more and more the focus of police work. Due to these developments, a close national and international co-operation of all security authorities is essential. Only intensive information exchange, the pooling of resources and a coordinated course of action are a guarantee for an effective and efficient suppression of international crime.

With the Amsterdam and the Lisbon Treaty, that entered into force in 1999 and in 2009 respectively, the necessary legal framework was set out and the EU was defined as an area of freedom, security and justice. The "Stockholm Programme" of 2009 provided the guidelines for common politics in the EU member states for the creation of a European security architecture. In addition to this, numerous bilateral police agreements govern the co-operation of the federal and the state authorities with the neighbouring countries concerned. The central agencies of the police are responsible for harmonising and coordinating police measures within the EU but also the co-

operation with the police authorities of non-EU member states. This task is gaining enormous importance.

Against this background, Europol, the Bundeskriminalamt, the State Criminal Police Offices and the Offices for the Protection of the Constitution of the Federation and the states are the main pillars of the European security architecture.

International terrorism, organised crime, economic crime and cybercrime are the permanent challenges posed to the security authorities all over the world. With the successful completion of international investigations in these fields of crime, the German security authorities show that they are reliable and professional security partners.

The intensification of co-operation, also with regard to new fields of action, the involvement of EUROPOL and the initiation and implementation of projects at European level should be strengthened in the future.

The central agencies of the Federation and the states have proved their value as competent and reliable partners of all other security authorities regionally, nationally and internationally and have become an integral part of the German security architecture.