

[en](#) | [fr](#)

[Press release](#) | 12.03.2015

## Counter terrorism

### EU cannot ignore human rights in cooperation with third countries

The European Parliament today adopted a resolution on EU cooperation with third countries on counter-terrorism. Commenting after the vote, Greens/EFA foreign affairs spokesperson **Alyn Smith** said:

*"The protection of human rights cannot be an afterthought for the EU in its cooperation with third countries in the Middle East and North Africa on counter-terrorism. The European Parliament has today sent a clear message to this end.*

*"Concerns have been raised about the opaque nature of this new move towards cooperation with third countries. The cooperation agreement has not even been officially published: to ask us to take a position on a document we have not formally even seen underlines the extent the member states want the Parliament to turn a blind eye to rights abuses. We have today rejected that approach.*

*"This agreement with the League of Arab States, which does not even include a human rights clause, is a weak, vague document. There is, we quite agree, a need for cooperation with third countries, and that cooperation must be based on the rule of law and defence of human rights and the process carried out in a transparent manner.*

*"It should be based on an unambiguous definition of terrorism and must be subject to democratic control. It is also clear that a coherent approach to terrorism implies addressing the root causes of radicalisation, like poverty, discrimination and marginalisation. This must also be a focus of the EU in its dealings with third countries."*

**Recommended**

Press release

<https://unsplash.com/de/@dmclenachan>



[Sanctions on Israeli settlers: Quote from MEPs Vieira ...](#)

11.05.2026

News

© European Union 2013 - European Parliament



[PLENARY FLASH: Greens/EFA Priorities 27 to 30 April](#)

27.04.2026

Press release

hosnysalah



[Israel: Greens/EFA urge EU response to death penalty l...](#)

01.04.2026

News

©zsofia-vera



[PLENARY FLASH: Greens/EFA Priorities 9 to 12 March](#)

09.03.2026

## **Responsible MEPs**



Heather Anderson

Member

## **Contact person**



Guendalina De Sario

Press & Media Advisor FR-IT-ES (for French, Italian and Spanish press)

**Please share**

[E-Mail](#)