

New threats and hybrids seen from Europe : a "biological" future

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When I was a kid, in the 1950's in France, America, the United States, it was for us something magical. It was huge, it was rich, it was full of everything desirable.

And so I believed until recently, when I had a big disappointment – yes of course the US were everything I believed as a kid – but not totally. Something indeed was scarce. Something was missing and that was the headsets, here in Fort Mc Nair. Not enough headsets so I would have to deliver my speech in English. Thus, excuse me for the clumsiness, this is not my native language – but I'll do my best.

First thanks for inviting me. As I read the program I felt this conference was a model of opportunity, and of clearness : the right subjects, the right time. So congratulation for the organizers. For us interested in strategy, in crime, in terrorism, here is today the place to be.

A first remark : there is no such thing as a global, permanent and 360 degrees threat. What I'll give you is an analysis on the

threats emerging, on the threats to come, seen from continental Europe, now and for the foreseeable future.

Now about the title of our conference, today.

Our job, in my research institute is basically to produce diagnoses on what we call “the dark side of globalization”, a concept broad enough, wide enough, inclusive enough so we do not miss anything seriously dangerous. So we are able to detect any mutating or evolving entity, say, from terrorism to organized crime.

So, a first diagnosis - I know the pipelines concept was defined by Doug Farah, I’m a big fan of his and I’ve read a lot of his essays, but my feeling is that, as we consider the next threats and dangers, “pipeline” conveys the idea of something mechanical – you plug a pipe into another pipe, this creates a network of pipes – all of this being mechanics. The IRA was mechanical. Abu Nidal was mechanical. But today’s threats, I feel, the Zetas, the pirates in the Indian Ocean, Hezbollah, all of them mutant and hybrid entities, have a different essence : their nature is not anymore mechanical, it is *biological*.

These entities are not built following general plans and orders. They don’t have a general staff and defined chains of command. Under certain conditions, they appear like mushrooms after the

rain, they sometimes change skin like snakes, they carry dangerous poisons like some plants, they have mimetic capacities like some insects.

They are indeed biological and we should think about it when we try to understand them better, and then, to neutralize them.

Now, seen from Europe again, the new threats.

First, a fundamental fact – and an extraordinary one indeed.

Today for us in Europe, and for the first time in, say, one thousand years, who the enemy is, is unclear - and that will last for the foreseeable future.

In my generation, my father fought the second world war, my grandfathers the first one. If you asked them who the enemy was, they answered in a minute and with one word. But now this question is utterly meaningless.

We are facing major threats, in a chaotic world, and only to define them, to have a clear idea of their nature and persistence is an terribly difficult exercise. So let's look at what really happens in Europe, as far as threats are concerned, and see if this gives us any positive, any fruitful ideas.

What do we see ? And what does it mean.

1 – Brutally, terrorism is disappearing from Europe. Listen to this recent figures, gathered by EUROPOL, as they are sensational indeed. In 2006, they were about 600 terrorist attacks in the EU. In 2011, 174. 158 of them in three countries, France, Spain and the UK. This means that 24 of EU's 27 countries are now, for the last 3 years, terrorism free. And next year's figures will be even much lower as end of 2011, the last serious European terrorist group, ETA in Spain as renounced armed struggle. Remaining attacks in the UK are mainly from the last of the Mohicans in Northern Ireland and in France, from hybrids indeed in Corsica, terrorists turned racketeers. Law enforcement problems, surely – but no strategic threat anymore.

Also look at the Muslim world : today even the most radical salafi reject terrorism and, from Tunisia to Egypt, rush to join the electoral process. This means that for the time being and in the shape and form we know, after 40 years of catastrophic “holy war” (where the only lasting success is a Shia one...) known forms of terrorism have little future - the last cases of deadly attacks in Europe involving mostly lunatics.

In 2011, an even bigger event : NOT One attack from Islamists, jihadi. NOT ONE in 2011, 3 in 2010, 1 in 2009 (EUROPOL figures). So for us in Europe, the terrorist nightmare we live since the

end of the 1960'ies is fading away. Remember, this was our 4th terrorism wave : anarchists in the 1910'ies, Balkanic in the 1930'ies, Middle Eastern in the 1960-1970'ies and just after, jihadi terrorism starting after the terrible year 1979.

2 - But this is not the only important fact, as far as global security is concerned. In Europe also, we see (not everywhere and not equally) a big decrease in the use of illicit drugs by the younger drug addicts. First in the UK, then in various countries, mainly in Western Europe, we see the 16-24 YO consuming far less cannabis, cocaine, heroin or ecstasy than before. In England for instance, 90% of the youngsters participating in Rave parties used to take illicit drugs in 2007 - less than 50% of them did in 2011.

Same thing in France with the 17 YO. Same in many European countries. Only with the youngest drug addicts remember, drug addiction figures are worse for the 25-40 YO.

But for any market, young consumers are the future – and this has not escaped the big shots in the major cartels and mafias – now busy migrating to new lucrative criminal activities.

So here is the perspective : ahead of us, down the road, less terrorism – but what will the terrorists become ? They will

obviously not oblige us and commit a mass suicide like the Solar temple cult – so, what will they do ?

And less attractive narcotics market, which means huge amounts of money missing – here, let's only consider the cannabis market : around 175 billion dollars a year says the UN. Minus 20% means 35 billion dollars missing. Do you see big mafias & cartel happy with such a financial disaster ? This bleak future means of course a lot of dead bodies, but also a rush for new sources of profit.

What new criminal markets then ?

For us, the 3 major ones are :

- Dangerous counterfeit (dangerous to public health, mostly, counterfeit medicinal drugs, food or cosmetics),
- Migration from the real world to the cyberworld (cybercrime),
- Corruption and looting of the major sports, through fixing bets, etc. Tons of money and a very desirable situation for mafias, the crime scene and the criminal himself being often ten thousand miles apart.

And here come the hybrids : ex-guerrillas, former terrorists, or fanatics investing the criminal field, and the new criminal businesses.

This has already started in France. Consider the last 10 raids against counterfeit luxury brands in France : 6 specialized networks discovered – all of them former jihadi from Algeria and Morocco. All of them now in counterfeit bags and shoes business - not for jihad, not for the cause, but for themselves, to buy ugly houses back in the old country, with even uglier furniture and design.

This means that, for the foreseeable future, we should closely look at a fascinating intersection, or nodal point : mutating entities entering mutating criminal markets.

Finally, here is our criminal forecast for the years to come (roughly, 2012 – 2018)

- Industrialisation of mass counterfeit production, particularly with regard to capital-consuming "criminal manufacturing" (dangerous counterfeit goods, etc.);
- Intensification in illegal trade coming into Europe, North America and developed parts of Asia;
- Increasing hybridization between "politics" (guerrillas, armed gangs), "religion" (various forms of fanaticism, jihadists) and criminal trafficking in all its guises;

- Flourishing cross-border crime, as always stemming from links between criminal fiefs and diasporas;
- Mega-gangs and degenerate guerrillas holding greater sway over uncontrolled parts of the emerging world;
- The criminal-hybrids keep a tighter rein on the people from “their” diasporas who have emigrated to major developed centres, especially in lawless housing estates and neighbourhoods;
- A gradual weakening and criminal degeneration of the *Salafi*-jihadist movement, with a concurrent rise in "political" Salafism (Muslim Brotherhood);
- Eco-terrorists' ongoing ability to effectively harass their targets, but at the present level of danger, not more.

The five faces of globalised crime

<i>Top</i>	Criminal finance
<i>Bottom</i>	Hybrid and mutant groups, mega-gangs, prison gangs, etc.
<i>Territories</i>	Lawless neighbourhoods and anarchic megacities
<i>Flows</i>	Major trafficking and dangerous counterfeit goods
<i>Technology</i>	Cybercrime and identity crime (data theft, etc.)