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**SIX MONTHS ON FROM NORWAY ATTACKS,
POLICY MEETING AND REPORT HIGHLIGHT NEW
THREATS FROM EUROPE'S RADICAL RIGHT**

From Oslo to Cologne to Florence, recent years have seen a multitude of headline-grabbing violent attacks committed by right-wing extremists consumed with anti-immigration sentiment and resentment of the political establishment. This has been accompanied by the growing presence of radical right parties in town halls and national legislatures across Europe.

To address concerns arising from these developments, the **Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD)** will on **Monday 23 January assemble 30 policy-makers, analysts, deradicalisation professionals and former extremists from across Europe**. This policy session will convene these leading figures in counter-extremism to develop new policy responses to the challenges posed by Europe's radical right. The keynote speakers will be **Professor Tore Bjørge** of Norway and **Dr Matthew Goodwin** of the United Kingdom.

An important new briefing paper *The New Radical Right: Violent and Non-Violent Movements in Europe*, commissioned by ISD and released to accompany the policy session, explores the threat posed by the radical right, both violent and non-violent. Although the report recognises that the presence of the radical right is not new, **a different kind of threat is emerging** as parties and movements capitalise on the genuine concerns of some of Europe's citizens, cooperate across national borders and, most importantly, **harness new tools including online mobilisation and charismatic, engaged leadership; tactics that mainstream parties must emulate if they are to mitigate the radical right's success**. However, the report goes on to highlight that the **influence of these radical right parties should not be measured solely in terms of electoral success**- other factors must be considered, including media coverage and impact on public attitudes.

Moving beyond the political sphere, the briefing paper examines the threat posed to national security by *violent* right-wing extremists. **According to statistics from Germany, membership of non-electoral neo-Nazi groups in that country rose by 12 % between 2009 and 2010**. While in recent years the national security focus in Europe's capitals has rightly been the threat posed by Al Qaeda, and right-wing inspired terrorism has been less common, **violence from right-wing extremists today poses a very real threat to community safety**, and should be given higher priority by European policy-makers.

Whilst many radical right supporters eschew violence, this report highlights the need to assess the factors that drive European citizens to commit violence motivated by their ideology.

ISD's Research and Policy Director, Rachel Briggs, comments, **“We need to take seriously the rise of the ‘new Radical Right’. Governments, policy chiefs, community groups and activists must work together to develop policies that will work in practice. It requires courage, leadership and new ways of working, but the threat must be faced head on.”**

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) is an independent think tank working with leaders in government, business, media and academia to develop multi-country responses to the major security and socio-economic challenges of our time and to enhance Europe's capacity to act effectively in the global arena. Activities include research, specialised task forces, high-level policy briefings, scholarships and cross-border networks that foster leadership and stability across Europe and its wider neighbourhood, actively bridging inter-communal, religious, socio-economic and political divides. Please visit www.strategicdialogue.org for more information on the Institute. Visit ISD's unique online repository www.counterextremism.org for specialist knowledge related to countering polarisation and radicalisation in Europe and across the world; a paper featuring additional insights and opinions from the workshop will be released on this site in early February.

The New Radical Right: Violent and Non-Violent Movements in Europe was commissioned by ISD and written by Vidhya Ramalingam and Dr Matthew Goodwin. Financial support for the production of the publication was provided by the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice.

Dr Tore Bjørgo is Professor of Police Science at the Norwegian Police University College and Senior Research Fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. His main fields of research are political extremism and terrorism; racist and right-wing violence; youth gangs; disengagement from violent groups; crime prevention; and policing. He has (co)authored or (co)edited eleven books. Tore Bjørgo was the initiator of the first “Exit” project to promote disengagement from racist groups in Norway, a project that was later to be adopted in Sweden, Finland, Germany, and the Netherlands. For additional information please visit www.phs.no/en/Research/Researchers/Tore-Bjorgo/.

Dr Matthew Goodwin is a lecturer in Politics at the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Nottingham, and is an Associate Fellow of Chatham House. He is a leading expert on right-wing extremism in Europe, and is the author of numerous books, articles and reports on the subject. He has also advised numerous bodies on the subject, including the UK Cabinet Office, Home Office, Department for Communities and Local Government and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. For further information and access to research please visit www.matthewjgoodwin.com.

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