

Summary of the report 'Internal Security Agency 2024–2025. Selected activities'

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The Internal Security Agency (ABW)'s report for 2024–2025¹ outlines the key measures taken by the Agency to safeguard the internal security of the Republic of Poland. It describes the ABW's activities in the areas of counter-intelligence, counter-terrorism, the protection of the strategic economic interests of the state, cyber security and the protection of classified information. It emphasises that contemporary threats are multifaceted and encompass both traditional intelligence activities and hybrid operations, cyber attacks, disinformation and attempts to destabilise social and economic life.

¹ *Agencja Bezpieczeństwa Wewnętrznego 2024–2025. Wybrane aktywności* (Eng. Internal Security Agency 2024–2025. Selected activities). Website link: <https://www.abw.gov.pl/pl/aktualnosci/2815,Agencja-Bezpieczenstwa-Wewnetrznego-2024-2025-Wybrane-aktywnosci.html>.

The main focus areas for the ABW

The Agency’s priority tasks are to safeguard the stability of the state and the constitutional order and the security of citizens. In 2024–2025, we faced an increasing scale of threats from the intelligence services of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus and the People’s Republic of China.

The report indicates that Russia carried out intensive intelligence and subversive activities targeting Poland, as well as NATO and European Union member states. These activities were aimed at undermining trust in state institutions, spreading disinformation, fuelling anti-European sentiment and destabilising the socio-political situation. Attempts to carry out acts of sabotage against critical infrastructure, military facilities and sites involved in organising support for Ukraine posed a particular threat.

Belarus mainly carried out operations against opposition groups in Poland and aimed at surveying military and critical infrastructure. The report also highlighted the close cooperation between the Belarusian and Russian secret services.

China’s activities remain a significant challenge. Chinese intelligence services exploit economic, scientific and media links to build political and economic influence. They are particularly interested in Polish experts, academics and civil servants who have access to strategic information.

Report – statistics on the ABW’s activities

The report presents figures illustrating the scale of the threats and the effectiveness of the ABW’s activities in areas such as counter-intelligence, the protection of Poland’s strategic economic interests and the fight against terrorism.

Counter-intelligence

Table 1 shows indicators in the field of counter-intelligence activities.

Table 1. Indicators in the field of counter-intelligence activities.

Indicator	Value
Ongoing investigations into espionage	over 60 (including 48 initiated in 2025)

Indicator	Value
Individuals who have been classified as suspects since the start of Russia's full-scale aggression against Ukraine	91
Individuals charged with espionage	82
Individuals detained for acting on behalf of foreign intelligence services	62
Analyses and information prepared for the highest levels of government	over 430

Source: own elaboration based on: *Agencja Bezpieczeństwa Wewnętrznego 2024–2025. Wybrane aktywności*.

The report highlights that 69 investigations into intelligence activities were launched between 2024 and 2025, which is the same number as the total for the period 1991–2023. This demonstrates an unprecedented increase in the threat to national security.

Protection of Poland's strategic economic interests

In the area of protecting Poland's strategic economic interests, the ABW's activities included:

- protecting energy investments, including the construction of Poland's first nuclear power station,
- monitoring infrastructure projects and investments carried out by state-owned companies,
- combating financial fraud and corruption,
- analysing threats associated with cryptocurrencies used to finance criminal and terrorist activities.

Anti-corruption measures were also a key element of the organisation's activities. By the end of 2024, 23 strategic projects were covered by these measures, a year later, that number had risen to 36.

Counter-terrorism

Counter-terrorism is a very important area of the ABW's work. The report indicates that the level of terrorist threat in Poland remains lower than

in many Western European countries, however, this does not mean that there are no real dangers.

The report focused primarily on Islamic terrorism. ABW officers identified cases of radicalisation among both Polish citizens and foreign nationals residing in the country. Illegal migration across the Polish-Belarusian border poses a particular threat, as it may enable individuals from countries posing a high risk of terrorism to enter the country.

The report also highlights the worrying phenomenon of the radicalisation of teenagers and young adults. Young people are increasingly taking an interest in the propaganda of terrorist organisations, such as the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). This mainly takes place via the internet, social media and instant messaging services. In extreme cases, this can lead to the planning of terrorist attacks.

Thanks to operations carried out by the ABW, the following individuals, for example, were arrested:

- a 17-year-old resident of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship who was preparing an attack inspired by ISIS ideology,
- three 19-year-old residents of Olsztyn who were planning to carry out a terrorist attack,
- a 19-year-old Polish citizen suspected of preparing an attack on Polish soil,
- a Tajik citizen who was a member of ISIS and who was deported from Poland.

The report highlights the extremely important role played in counter-terrorism operations by the 24-hour exchange of information between the services responsible for national security. Within the ABW, this responsibility lies with the Counter-Terrorism Centre (CAT ABW).

Table 2 shows the key statistics on counter-terrorism.

Table 2. Indicators in the field of counter-terrorism.

Indicator	Value
Ongoing criminal proceedings relating to terrorism	19 (including 7 initiated in 2025)
Analyses of terrorist threats	178
Operational reports on potential threats	almost 700

Indicator	Value
Opinions relating to licensing procedures for weapons, explosives and strategic technologies	over 880
Number of applications for licences for the international trade in strategic goods and technologies	ca. 5500

Source: own elaboration based on: *Agencja Bezpieczeństwa Wewnętrznego 2024–2025. Wybrane aktywności.*

Preventive measures, monitoring of radicalisation processes and the rapid exchange of information between domestic and foreign intelligence services are of particular importance in combating terrorist threats.

Comments on the report

The Head of the ABW, Colonel Rafał Syrysko, gave an interview to the media in which he discussed the ABW's report for the years 2024–2025². He pointed out that the activities of the Russian secret services towards Poland have clearly changed. Currently, these activities are not limited to traditional intelligence-gathering, but increasingly involve acts of subversion and sabotage, which may lead to damage to infrastructure and endanger human lives. According to the Head of the ABW, Russia is 'pushing the boundaries' of its operations, and the services are observing a growing tendency on the part of the adversary towards kinetic actions.

A particularly worrying trend is the Russian security services' exploitation of individuals from criminal circles. Colonel Rafał Syrysko believes that individuals with a criminal background are easier to recruit for subversive activities, as they are able to conceal their activities and operate outside the law. This blurs the line between intelligence operations and organised crime.

In the interview, the Head of the ABW also discussed the report's findings regarding Belarus's specific role in activities directed against

² See in more detail: *Plk Rafał Syrysko, szef ABW o nowej taktyce rosyjskich służb w Polsce i największych Ryzykach* (Eng. Col. Rafał Syrysko, the Head of the ABW on the new tactics of the Russian security services in Poland and the greatest Risks), Rzeczpospolita, 6 V 2026, <https://www.rp.pl/sluzby/art44311581-plk-rafal-syrysko-szef-abw-o-nowej-taktyce-rosyjskich-sluzb-w-polsce-i-najwiekszych-ryzykach> [accessed: 14 VI 2026].

Poland. He described Belarus as Russia's most important state-backed base in the region. The Belarusian security services are involved in influence operations, migration activities and border provocations, and they support Russian initiatives aimed at undermining the security of Poland and NATO member states.

The discussion also touched upon the issue of Chinese intelligence activities. According to the Head of the ABW, China's activities are long-term in nature and focus on building economic, political and social influence. The Chinese intelligence services utilise economic ties and expert circles to establish a base of influence, and also carry out information campaigns aimed at improving the image of the Chinese model of state.

The interview also touched on terrorist threats. Colonel Rafał Syrysko believes that the threat of Islamic terrorism in Poland remains relatively low. The ABW constantly monitors cases of radicalisation among both foreign nationals and Polish citizens. International cooperation and the rapid exchange of information between security services are of particular importance, as they enable the identification of individuals who may pose a threat.

The Head of the ABW emphasises that terrorists are increasingly using the internet, instant messaging apps and social media to recruit and radicalise young people. For this reason, preventive measures by the security services and the monitoring of the digital space are becoming just as important as traditional operational activities.

Conclusions

The ABW report and the interview with the Head of the ABW show that Poland currently finds itself in a security environment characterised by rapidly evolving threats. In addition to traditional espionage, hybrid operations, sabotage, disinformation, cyber attacks and the radicalisation of young people are becoming increasingly significant. Operations carried out by Russia and its ally Belarus remain a particular challenge.

The data presented in the report point to the high level of activity and effectiveness of the ABW in detecting and neutralising threats to national security. Poland's security is currently under severe pressure due to the international situation, particularly the war in Ukraine and Russia's aggressive policy. The number of intelligence, sabotage and disinformation

operations targeting Poland is on the rise. At the same time, the ABW is increasing the effectiveness of its operations, as evidenced by numerous arrests, charges brought and the growing number of investigations being conducted. The document also emphasises the importance of international cooperation, particularly within NATO and the EU. Joint action by the security services of allied states is essential to effectively counter contemporary threats.

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