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### *E.U. Urges Cooperation to Combat Terrorism*

BRUSSELS — European foreign ministers called for an alliance against Islamic extremism with the countries of North Africa and other Muslim nations like Yemen, where at least one of the gunmen responsible for attacks in Paris received training.

“We need an alliance, a dialogue, because we are all facing the same threat,” Federica Mogherini, the European Union’s foreign affairs chief, said at a news conference at the end of the one-day meeting of ministers.

In an effort to increase counterterrorism cooperation both inside Europe and with countries outside the bloc, particularly those in the Muslim world, the 28-nation European alliance will assign security attachés at its diplomatic missions overseas, Ms. Mogherini said.

Didier Reynders, the foreign minister of Belgium, said the European Union needed to increase intelligence sharing and other cooperation with countries like Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia to help curb radicalization and violent extremism.

Many Muslims living in Belgium and France, including the two brothers involved in the attack on the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo and the reported ringleader of the foiled Belgian plot, trace their origins to North Africa.

Mr. Reynders said Europe wanted to work “much more directly with these partner countries.”

Mr. Reynders and other ministers called for the establishment of a European system for exchanging passenger information, similar to one introduced in the United States after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Proposals for such a program in Europe were put forward years ago but were stalled because of opposition from the European Parliament, where many lawmakers worried about violating citizens’ privacy.

Under the program, information about seat numbers, flight reservation dates, payment methods and travel itineraries would be exchanged. Mr. Reynders suggested that such a system could have helped prevent an attack in May on the Jewish Museum in Brussels that left four people dead. The main suspect in that case, Mehdi Nemmouche, traveled from France to Syria before returning to Belgium, Mr. Reynders said.

“If we don’t know the route, if we don’t have the chance to follow people step by step, we can’t make progress,” he said.

Ms. Mogherini, the foreign affairs chief, said the European Union would also step up efforts to block the financing of terrorism, another program inspired by measures taken by the United States but long stalled by privacy and other concerns.

She said European officials would meet in the coming days with officials from the United States, Canada, Japan and other nations to discuss ways to counter the financing of the militant group the Islamic State.

Several thousand young European Muslims have traveled to Syria and Iraq to join the Islamic State and other extremist groups, a jihadist pipeline that has helped spread extremist views inside Europe and raised fears that fighters will return home to carry out terrorist attacks.

Amedy Coulibaly, a Paris gunman of African descent who killed four hostages at a kosher supermarket on Jan. 9, said he was acting on behalf of the Islamic State. The Belgian authorities have said that the plot they disrupted involved several people who had returned from Syria.

The foreign ministers' meeting was the first of senior European Union officials since the three-day rampage that killed 17 people in Paris and raised worries across Europe that Muslim extremists may be gearing up for more attacks.

Concerned about potential attacks on Jewish sites, embassies and other possible targets, Belgium on Saturday deployed 150 paratroopers in Brussels, the capital, and in Antwerp, a diamond-trading center with a large Orthodox Jewish population. It was the first time troops had been used for domestic security in more than 20 years.