

# SECURITY UNION

## A Europe that protects

March 2019

It is the most basic and universal of rights to feel safe and secure in your own home. Europeans rightly expect their Union to provide that for them. The Juncker Commission made security a top priority from day one. We have taken decisive action to deny terrorists the means to carry out attacks, share intelligence between Member States, protect Europeans online, and better manage our borders.



*“Combating cross-border crime and terrorism is a common European responsibility. We need to crack down on organised crime, such as human trafficking, smuggling and cybercrime. We must tackle corruption; and we must fight terrorism and counter radicalisation – all the while guaranteeing fundamental rights and values, including procedural rights and the protection of personal data.”*

Then-Candidate for European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, Political Guidelines for the next European Commission, 15 July 2014

22

**22 legislative initiatives** have been presented since the Juncker Commission took office.

15

Of these 22 initiatives, **15 have been agreed** by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

7

There are still **7 Commission legislative initiatives on the table** which the European Parliament and the Council need to agree.

## DENYING TERRORISTS THE MEANS TO ACT

In the past four years, the Commission has taken a series of landmark decisions to tighten security laws across the EU and cut terrorists off from the money, firearms and substances they use to carry out attacks.

A **law on combatting terrorism** ensures that terrorism-related offences — such as travelling abroad to commit a terrorist offence, returning or travelling within the EU for such activities, training for terrorist purposes and the financing of terrorism — are now **criminalised** and **heavily sanctioned** across Europe. The Commission has also reinforced the control of legally-held **firearms** in the EU. New rules make it harder to legally acquire high capacity weapons and restrict access to **chemical substances** that could be used to make home-made explosives.

Terrorists and criminals are constantly looking for loopholes – using false identities and setting up multiple bank accounts, they pose a risk to the security of the EU as a whole. Cutting off the sources of **terrorism financing**, countering **money-laundering**, and curbing **document fraud** are among the most effective ways to crack down on terrorists and criminal activities.

## 6 INITIATIVES AGREED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

- Law on combatting terrorism
- Restricted access to firearms
- Revised rules on anti-money laundering
- Improved security of ID cards
- Access to financial information in criminal investigations
- Restricting the marketing and use of explosive precursors

## 2 INITIATIVES STILL PENDING AGREEMENT BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS:

Proposal	Status			
	European Commission proposal	European Parliament negotiating mandate	Council of the European Union negotiating mandate	Agreed by European Parliament and Council
European Public Prosecutor's Office to fight cross-border terrorism	✓ September 2018			✗
Improving cross-border access to electronic evidence	✓ April 2018		Agreed in December 2018	✗

## SHARING INFORMATION

Effective information sharing is a key element of the fight against terrorism. Thanks to the Commission's efforts to raise awareness and provide practical solutions, information exchange has increased significantly and Member States use European databases, such as the Schengen Information System, much more often.

The Commission is working to **close information gaps** and allow **EU information systems to work together** – ensuring that border guards and police officers have the information they need, when they need it. For their part, Member States now have to ensure the full implementation of the existing rules.

## 4 INITIATIVES AGREED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

- Schengen Information System
- The eu-LISA Agency
- Upgrade of European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS-TCN system)
- Interoperability of EU information systems for security, border and migration

## 2 INITIATIVES STILL PENDING AGREEMENT BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS:

Proposal	Status			
	European Commission proposal	European Parliament negotiating mandate	Council of the European Union negotiating mandate	Agreed by European Parliament and Council
Revision of Eurodac system	✓ May 2016	Agreed in May 2017	Agreed in June 2017	✗
Strengthened Visa Information System	✓ May 2018		Agreed in December 2018	✗

## PROTECTING EUROPEANS ONLINE

Large scale cyber-attacks that have recently targeted key infrastructure across the world show that we need to invest more heavily in **cybersecurity**. With the scaled-up EU response, the Union will be better prepared to face these new challenges.

In the past two years the Commission has driven action to counter radicalisation, both offline and online. The **Radicalisation Awareness Network** brings together practitioners from all Member States to develop best practices, and equips them with the skills they need to address violent extremism. EU initiatives to counter terrorist propaganda and radicalisation online are also showing results. In 2015, the Commission launched the **EU Internet Forum**, which brings together governments, Euro-pol and the biggest technology and social media companies to ensure that illegal content, including terrorist propaganda, is taken down as quickly as possible. In March, the Commission adopted a Recommendation tackling illegal content online, and in September followed up with proposed legislation to ensure **terrorist content is removed within one hour**.

## 3 INITIATIVES AGREED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

- Cybersecurity Act
- Combatting fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment
- Updated rules on political party funding

**2 INITIATIVES STILL PENDING AGREEMENT BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS**

Proposal	Status			
	European Commission proposal	European Parliament negotiating mandate	Council of the European Union negotiating mandate	Agreed by European Parliament and Council
Removing terrorist content online	✓ September 2018		Agreed in December 2018	✗
Network of national coordination centres in cybersecurity	✓ September 2018	Agreed in March 2019	Agreed in March 2019	✗

**PROTECTING OUR BORDERS**

In an area of free movement without internal borders, managing Europe's external borders must be a shared responsibility. We need to know who is crossing our borders and be able to effectively secure them. Since October 2016, the new **European Border and Coast Guard Agency** is assisting Member States, including a pool of 1,500 personnel who can intervene without delay whenever support is needed at one of our external borders. In September the Commission proposed to further reinforce the Agency with a standing corps of 10,000 operational staff and their own equipment. Moreover, no traveller will pass EU borders unnoticed as all nationals – both EU and non-EU – are now **systematically checked against all relevant security databases**.

**2 INITIATIVES AGREED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL**

- Entry/Exit System
- ETIAS

**1 INITIATIVES STILL PENDING AGREEMENT BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS**

Proposal	Status			
	European Commission proposal	European Parliament negotiating mandate	Council of the European Union negotiating mandate	Agreed by European Parliament and Council
Reinforced European Border and Coast Guard	✓ September 2018	Agreed in February 2019	Agreed in February 2019	✗

**OTHER COMMISSION INITIATIVES WITH SECURITY COMPONENT**

**4 INITIATIVES AGREED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL**

- Law on illicit cash movements
- Criminalisation of money laundering
- Mutual recognition of criminal asset freezing and confiscation orders
- Legislation on illicit trade in cultural goods

**2 INITIATIVES STILL PENDING AGREEMENT BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS**

Proposal	Status			
	European Commission proposal	European Parliament negotiating mandate	Council of the European Union negotiating mandate	Agreed by European Parliament and Council
Updated privacy rules for electronic communications (ePrivacy)	✓ January 2017	Agreed in October 2017		✗
Revision of the rules for temporary reintroduction of border control at internal borders	✓ September 2017	Agreed in November 2018	Agreed in June 2018	✗