

# SECURITY UNION: A EUROPE THAT PROTECTS

January 2018

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 manage our borders better.



*“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 by the European Commission since the Juncker Commission took office.

5

Of these 22 initiatives, **5 have been adopted** by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

17

There are still **17 Commission legislative initiatives on the table** which the European Parliament and the Council need to adopt.

## DENYING TERRORISTS THE MEANS TO ACT

In the past two 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 new **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.

Cutting off the sources of **terrorist financing** is one of the most effective ways to stop potential terrorist attacks. However, a number of proposals put forward by the Commission are still waiting to be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council.

## 2 INITIATIVES ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

Law on combatting terrorism

Rules restricting access to firearms

## 6 INITIATIVES STILL PENDING ADOPTION BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS:

Proposal	Status			
	European Commission proposal	European Parliament negotiating mandate	Council of the European Union negotiating mandate	Adopted by European Parliament and Council
Revised rules to criminalise money laundering	✓ July 2016	Agreed in February 2017	Agreed in December 2016	✗
Criminalisation of money laundering	✓ December 2016	Agreed in December 2017	Agreed in June 2017	✗
Strengthening mutual recognition of criminal asset freezing and confiscation orders	✓ December 2016	Agreed in January 2018	Agreed in December 2017	✗
Legislation on Illicit cash movements	✓ December 2016	Agreed in December 2017	Agreed in June 2017	✗
Legislation on illicit trade in cultural goods	✓ July 2017			✗
EU certification of airport screening equipment	✓ September 2016			✗

## 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 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 exactly when they need it. For their part, Member States now need to ensure the full implementation of the existing rules, such as **Passenger Name Records**, adopted in 2016. This data is essential for identifying high-risk travellers previously unknown to law enforcement authorities and better tracking of criminal networks.

## 0 INITIATIVES ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

## 6 INITIATIVES STILL PENDING ADOPTION BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS:

Proposal	Status			
	European Commission proposal	European Parliament negotiating mandate	Council of the European Union negotiating mandate	Adopted by European Parliament and Council
Amendment to European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)	✓ January 2016	Agreed in May 2016	Agreed in December 2017	✗
Upgrade of European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS-TCN system)	✓ June 2017		Agreed in December 2017	✗
Reinforced Schengen Information System	✓ December 2016	Agreed in November 2017	Agreed in November 2017	✗
Stronger mandate of the eu-LISA Agency	✓ June 2017	Agreed in December 2017	Agreed in December 2017	✗
Interoperability between EU information systems for security, border and migration	✓ December 2017			✗
Revision of Eurodac system	✓ May 2016	Agreed in May 2017	Agreed in June 2017	✗

## PROTECTING EUROPEANS ONLINE

The cyber-attacks that recently targeted key infrastructure across the world show that we need to invest more heavily in **information security**. With the scaled-up EU response to cyber-attacks – through the EU Cybersecurity Agency, certifications for digital products and a large-scale attack blueprint – the EU 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 showing results. In 2015, the Commission launched the **EU Internet Forum** which brings together governments, Europol and the biggest technology and social media companies to ensure that illegal content, including terrorist propaganda, is taken down as quickly as possible.

### 0 INITIATIVES ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

### 3 INITIATIVES STILL PENDING ADOPTION BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS

Proposal	Status			
	European Commission proposal	European Parliament negotiating mandate	Council of the European Union negotiating mandate	Adopted by European Parliament and Council
<b>Updated privacy rules for electronic communications (ePrivacy)</b>	✓ January 2017	Agreed in October 2017		✗
<b>Combatting fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment</b>	✓ September 2017			✗
<b>EU Cybersecurity Agency (ENISA) and EU certification scheme for digital products</b>	✓ September 2017			✗

## 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 we need to be able to effectively secure our common borders. Since October 2016, the new **European Border and Coast Guard Agency** is assisting Member States with a pool of 1,500 personnel who can intervene without delay whenever support is needed at one of our external borders. No traveller will pass EU borders unnoticed as all nationals – both EU and non-EU – are now **systematically checked against all relevant databases**. But to fully protect our borders we need the new systems to be adopted swiftly (in the case of the European Travel Information and Authorisation System) and implemented accurately (the Entry/Exit System).

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

European Border and Coast Guard Agency  
Systematic checks against relevant databases  
Entry/Exit System

### 2 INITIATIVES STILL PENDING ADOPTION BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS

Proposal	Status			
	European Commission proposal	European Parliament negotiating mandate	Council of the European Union negotiating mandate	Adopted by European Parliament and Council
<b>European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)</b>	✓ November 2016	Agreed in October 2017	Agreed in June 2017	✗
<b>Revision of the rules for temporary reintroduction of border control at internal borders</b>	✓ September 2017			✗

## INVESTING IN EUROPE'S SECURITY

EU funding is an important tool to help Member States better protect their citizens. Since 2014, the EU has invested close to €3 billion in keeping Europe safe – securing our borders, combatting organised crime and terrorism and researching new security solutions. In the next few years, we will invest a further €2.7 billion in funding to improve Europe's security, reaching a total of €5.7 billion for the period 2014-2020.

## TOWARDS A SECURITY UNION

Security is identified as a key priority in the Joint Declaration on the EU's legislative priorities for 2018-19. The Commission will continue to drive progress ahead of the September Informal Leaders' meeting on security, announced in the Leaders' Agenda, paving the way towards an effective and genuine Security Union.

