

Questions & Answers: Security Union – Commission presents anti-terrorism package to better protect EU citizens

Security has been a political priority since the beginning of the Juncker Commission's mandate. Since adopting the [European Agenda on Security](#) in April 2015, the Commission has been supporting Member States by creating the right framework at EU level to better protect EU citizens. Decisive action has been taken to deny terrorists the means to carry out attacks, share intelligence between Member States, protect Europeans online and better manage our borders.

The Commission reports regularly on progress made towards creating an effective and genuine Security Union and is today presenting its 11th Progress Report, setting out a package of operational and practical anti-terrorism measures to be rolled out over the next 16 months. These measures will help Member States address vulnerabilities exposed by recent terrorist attacks and will make a real difference in enhancing security. The measures will:

- Support Member States in protecting public spaces;
- Close the space in which terrorists can operate by further restricting access to explosive precursors and improving cross border access to financial information;
- Enhance preparedness, resilience and coordination at EU level in case of an incident involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) substances;
- Support law enforcement and judicial authorities that encounter encryption by criminals in criminal investigations;
- Set out the next steps on countering radicalisation;
- Reinforcing the EU's external action on counter-terrorism.

1. An EU Action Plan to support the protection of public spaces

What has been done so far at EU level?

Whilst Member States are primarily responsible for protecting public spaces, the EU can and should do more to provide support to improve preparedness and better protect them from the threat of terrorism. The Commission's work on supporting the protection of public spaces (and so-called "soft target" protection) has focused on facilitating practical cooperation by bringing law enforcement practitioners together to share best practice, developing guidance materials and conducting detection trials together with Member States.

Building on this work, as well as work undertaken in the context of critical infrastructure protection such as research on the physical protection of buildings, the Action Plan presented today sets out immediate, concrete

measures to support the Member States improve the physical protection and reduce the vulnerability of public spaces

Why is the Commission proposing an Action Plan?

With the growing threat to public spaces, as shown by the recent attacks in Barcelona, Berlin, London, Manchester, Nice, Paris and Stockholm, there is a need to do more in this area, including at EU level, by facilitating cooperation, sharing information and best practices across borders – including through targeted funding of over €118 million over the next year – and providing guidance to Member States. The EU can also provide support through the establishment of forums involving a wide range of stakeholders in this work, including from the local level and the private sector.

As part of the Action Plan, the Commission will:

- Set up specialised forums for **exchanging expertise and best practice**. A **Practitioners' Forum** will be established where law enforcement practitioners and existing law enforcement networks can share knowledge about protecting public spaces. A **High-Risk Security Network** will be established to organise common trainings and joint exercises for law enforcement to improve their preparedness and enhance their response capacity.
- Help develop **guidance material** and work towards common standards on issues such as the physical protection of buildings, the protection of specific events (e.g. sporting events) or places (e.g. airports), the design and planning of public spaces in order to make them more secure and the better use of detection methods (e.g. technologies and the use of dogs), including “security by design” solutions to make public spaces more secure while preserving their open and public nature.
- Foster the **involvement of stakeholders** in protecting public spaces by establishing an **Operator's Forum** to engage with all stakeholders, including private sector operators such as concert hall owners and car rental companies, with the aim of encouraging public-private security partnerships. The Commission will also pursue dialogue with local and regional authorities, including mayors of major European cities, to share best practice and facilitate funding opportunities.

How much additional funding will the Commission make available for the protection of public spaces?

EU funding can support Member States in the protection of public spaces, drawing on expertise and best practice in other Member States and enhancing cooperation across borders. Funding can, for example, support measures to promote the development of innovative security by design infrastructure, including measures such as access control zones at the entrance to buildings that ensure secure public spaces without changing their open character. As part of the Action Plan, the Commission is today making an additional over €118 million available in EU funding, both for short- and medium-term measures.

Increased EU funding for short-term measures: To address immediate needs, the

Commission is **today launching a call** for project proposals through the **Internal Security Fund (ISF) Police** for a total amount of **€18.5 million**. This funding will support transnational projects improving the protection of public spaces (e.g. development of new concepts of urban design). Funding will also be made available within this call to improve the cooperation between first responders in the aftermath of terrorist attacks through projects that aim to enhance the coordination between, for example, law enforcement, civil protection and medical services.

Increased EU funding for medium-term measures: The short-term funding will be complemented with additional funding of up to **€100 million** in 2018 through the **Urban Innovative Act** under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support projects ensuring the physical resistance of buildings, the physical protection of crowded places and promoting security by design. The Commission is currently collecting ideas from cities on innovative security solutions, to prepare the relevant calls for proposals to be launched in October 2018.

In addition, the EU has so far funded 48 security research projects related to the protection of public spaces under the Seventh Framework Programme and Horizon 2020 for a total amount of €195 million. A dedicated topic on the protection of public spaces will be included in a call for research proposals under Horizon 2020 in its 2018–20 Work Programme.

How much funding is the Commission making available for other security related actions through the Internal Security Fund?

The Internal Security Fund (ISF) was set up for the period 2014-20 to promote the achievement of an efficient and genuine Security Union, [law enforcement cooperation](#) and improve the [management of the EU's external borders](#). The ISF–Police component of the Internal Security Fund contributes to ensuring a high level of security in the EU by funding projects to combat crime, including [terrorism](#), and to reinforce coordination and cooperation between law enforcement authorities and other national authorities in Member States, including with Europol.

The ISF–Police fund is mainly utilised by participating Member States through shared management with the Commission – i.e. each country makes use of the funding through national annual programmes setting out the yearly priorities and objectives. For the period 2014–20, Member States have at their disposal a total of €754 million.

In addition, the Commission manages part of the ISF–Police fund directly. For 2017, the Annual Work Programme budgets a total of €108 million for direct management by the Commission – almost 3 times the amount for 2016 (€39 million). Five priority areas have been defined for 2017: counter-terrorism, organised crime, cybercrime, operational cooperation and information exchange.

What measures are taken to improve transport security?

With recent terrorist attacks focusing increasingly on public spaces,

transportation means are both targets of terrorist acts but also a means to conduct attacks (e.g. hijacked planes or truck-ramming). In response to this, there is a need to assess the degree to which transport security rules ensure security while also ensuring fluid transport networks.

Because its infrastructure is by nature open, **rail transport** is a high risk target. In June 2017, the Commission, along with Member States, launched a common railway risk assessment and is working on further measures to improve passenger railway security.

In **road transport**, the Commission is developing a best-practice security guidance toolkit for the end of 2017 focusing on truck security to address the risk of hijacking and theft of trucks used in ramming attacks, while new technologies are also being explored, such as collision avoidance systems and automatic emergency braking.

While the **aviation sector** is already a well-protected sector, the Commission will further enhance airport security by providing guidance on the protection of landside areas with a focus on passenger flows.

The Commission will also continue enhancing **maritime transport security**, in particular to step up the protection of ports, container ships and passenger transport ships such as ferries and cruise ships.

2. Cutting access to explosive precursors and improving cross border access to financial information

What measures are in place at EU level to restrict the access to explosive precursors?

At EU level, the [Regulation on Explosives Precursors](#), adopted in 2013, harmonises rules across Europe on the availability, introduction, possession and use of certain chemical substances or mixtures (such as hydrogen peroxide) that could be misused for the illicit manufacture of explosives. The EU rules ensure that the general public cannot acquire, possess and use the restricted chemical substances unless their Member State establishes a licensing or registration system. Economic operators in the supply chain are also required to report suspicious transactions, disappearances and thefts involving a broad list of chemicals.

Whilst the implementation of this Regulation has contributed to reducing access to dangerous explosive precursors, recent terrorist attacks and incidents indicate that the threat posed by home-made explosives in Europe remains high. In spite of the efforts to effectively restrict and control access to them, explosives precursors continue to be accessed and used for the purpose of making home-made explosives. As part of the measures presented today to cut off access to the means used by terrorist to prepare and carry out attacks, the Commission is today presenting a **Recommendation setting out immediate steps to prevent the misuse of explosives precursors**.

What new measures is the Commission recommending today?

To restrict as much as possible the access to and use of explosives

precursors by terrorists better achieve the objectives of the Regulation on explosive precursors, the Commission is today recommending that Member States:

- Assess whether the **prohibition, licensing or registration system** for precursors in place at national level is effectively contributing to restrict the availability of these substances, and inform the Commission of the result of this assessment within four month after the adoption of the Recommendation. The information received from Member States will help to consider if possible further measures are necessary at EU level.
- Promote and, where possible, require the use of **alternatives substances or lower concentrations** that can be used for the same legitimate activity whilst posing less concern to security.
- Establish conditions for the **secure storage** of explosives precursors for economic operators, professional users and members of the general public who are legally in possession of explosives precursors.
- Carry out **background checks** on anyone applying for a licence and set up inspection systems to identify non-compliance by economic operators.
- Engage with the **supply chain** by providing training to law enforcement and customs authorities.
- Encourage end-users of explosives precursors to **report** any significant disappearances or thefts.
- **Exchange information** on suspicious incidents with other Member States, whenever there is a potential cross-border element.

The Commission is also stepping up its **review of the Regulation** with an impact assessment to be carried out during the first half of 2018.

How will cross-border access to financial information be improved?

Due to its reliability and accuracy, financial data can help identify terrorists, uncover links with accomplices, establish the activities and logistics of suspects and map out terrorist networks. Having a rapid overview of the financial activities of suspects and their accomplices can provide law enforcement with crucial information to prevent attacks or react in the aftermath of an attack.

Access to financial transaction data held in other Member States can be facilitated through **Financial Intelligence Units**. The **European Investigation Order** also offers new possibilities to obtain financial transaction data when such information needs to be used as evidence in criminal proceedings.

The Commission is exploring options to **improve cooperation among Financial Intelligence Units** and in the context of the proposed amendments to the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive currently under negotiation with the co-legislators, work is on-going to facilitate access to financial data within a Member State, with the establishment of central bank account registries or data retrieval systems in all Member States. These systems will be accessible to Financial Intelligence Units. Building on this work, the Commission is preparing an initiative to broaden law enforcement access to bank account registries. The Commission is also analysing the need for additional measures to facilitate access to financial transaction data held in other EU

jurisdictions for counter-terrorism investigations.

Bringing together ongoing assessments regarding the use of financial information for counter-terrorism investigations, the Commission will organise a stakeholder meeting in November 2017 to discuss:

- The main obstacles to effective and timely access to financial transaction data held in other Member States for counter-terrorism investigations;
- The necessity, technical feasibility and proportionality of possible additional measures to facilitate cross-border access to financial transaction data for counter-terrorism investigations in a quick, effective and secure manner.

The Commission continues to promote the exchange of best practice concerning investigation techniques and analysis of terrorist methods to raise and move funds, including financial support based on a **call for proposals launched today worth €2.5 million**.

3. A new EU Action Plan to strengthen chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) security

Why is the Commission proposing a new Action Plan?

In 2009, the Commission adopted a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) [Action Plan](#) with the aim to prevent and limit the impact of risks by restricting access to CBRN materials, improving their detection and enhancing the response to incidents involving CBRN substances.

Although CBRN agents have not been used in terrorist attacks in Europe and whilst the probability of an attack using CBRN is considered low, the overall CBRN threat is evolving and the impact of a possible attack could be high. The EU is therefore focusing on stepping up prevention, preparedness and response planning. The new Action Plan presented today builds on the work launched in the 2009 Action Plan and addresses the gaps identified following the review of its implementation, also taking into account emerging threats. Many of the actions proposed will also improve society's preparedness for possible incidents involving CBRN that are unconnected to terrorism.

Measures proposed in the new Action Plan will:

- **Reduce the accessibility** of CBRN materials by optimising the exchange of technical information about CBRN weapons through a systematic inclusion of technical information on CBRN weapons and incidents in the European Bomb Data System managed by Europol, and improving customs detection capability and better address insider threats in facilities holding CBRN materials.
- **Boost preparedness and response** to security incidents by developing a common EU training curriculum for first responders (law enforcement, civil protection, health) to incidents, by re-engineering the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS) to improve information flow regarding cross-border threats to health. Handbooks to raise awareness of the

risks related to emerging biotechnologies will be developed in the fourth quarter of 2018. A mapping of existing EU training activities will be completed by January 2018 and a roll-out of new training and exercises will start in the fourth quarter of 2018.

- **Build stronger links with key international and regional partners** by organising joint workshops or exercises with strategic partners (such as the US), by cooperating more closely with NATO to design common trainings on CBRN, and by sharing best practices with multilateral organisations (such as Interpol and IAEA).
- **Enhance and exchange knowledge of CBRN risks** at EU level by establishing an EU CBRN security network composed of national CBRN Security Coordinators, EU experts and Europol's European Counter-Terrorism Centre (ECTC) to pool expertise and coordinate initiatives; by exploiting better research results; and by identifying new research needs such as solutions on how to mitigate emerging threats. The network, to be fully operational by 2018, will be supported by a CBRN knowledge hub in Europol as well as expertise available in Member States.

The technical complexity, relatively low likelihood and high costs related to prevention, preparedness and response to CBRN incidents make this an area where cooperation at EU level and pooling of resources with a view to achieving better preparedness for possible CBRN incidents, including those unconnected to terrorism, are particularly useful and result in significant security gains.

4. Supporting law enforcement in criminal investigations online

What is the role of encryption in criminal investigations?

Law enforcement and judicial authorities are increasingly facing challenges posed by the use of encryption by criminals in the context of criminal investigations. This is not only limited to serious crimes: in many cases, electronic data may be the only information and evidence available to prosecute and convict criminals. The challenges are not only due to attempts by criminal users to disguise their electronic communication and privately stored data, but also due to the default option of many communication services to apply encryption. The use of encryption by criminals, and therefore its impact on criminal investigations, is expected to continue to grow in the coming years.

How is the Commission proposing to support Member States on encryption?

Following consultation with Member States and stakeholders, the Commission has proposed today:

- to support Europol to further develop its decryption capability;
- to establish a network of centres of encryption expertise;
- to create a toolbox for legal and technical instruments;
- to provide training for law enforcement authorities, supported by €500,000 from the ISF–Police fund in 2018;
- to establish an observatory for legal and technical developments;
- to establish a structured dialogue with industry and civil society

organisations.

In early 2018, the Commission will present proposals to provide for a **legal framework** to facilitate access to electronic evidence.

5. Countering radicalisation

How does the Commission support Member States in their efforts to counter radicalisation?

Recent attacks have shown that some terrorists have been radicalised very quickly, be it online or offline. The prevention and countering of radicalisation is a key element to effectively fight against terrorism and prevent attacks from taking place. The European Commission has been supporting Member States for over a decade in their efforts across several policy areas, from tackling extremist propaganda online and radicalisation in prisons to promoting inclusive education and common values. Support is provided for example through dedicated EU funding and through the setting up of a number of dedicated expert groups and forums to improve EU cooperation in different areas.

In July 2017, the Commission set up the **High-Level Expert Group on Radicalisation** to step up efforts to prevent and counter radicalisation and improve coordination and cooperation between all relevant stakeholders, building on the achievements obtained so far. The Group is tasked with setting out recommendations for further work in this area, with a first interim report to be completed this year, including on the need for and added value of establishing an EU Centre for the Prevention of Radicalisation.

In parallel, the EU is further engaging on reducing and countering online radicalisation, notably through the **EU Internet Forum**. In July 2017, the EU Internet Forum set out an Action Plan to combat terrorist content online, calling on the internet industry to take decisive action, devote resources and develop the necessary technological tools to ensure the swift detection and take-down of harmful material. Currently, some companies are reporting that 75% of content is now detected automatically and then referred to human reviewers for the final decision on removal, whereas for others, 95% of content is now detected via proprietary detection tools. On 6 December 2017, the European Commission will convene the EU Internet Forum at Ministerial level with the participation of high-level representatives of the internet industry to assess progress and pave the way for future action.

On 28 September 2017, the actions taken in the context of the EU Internet Forum were reinforced by [new guidance and principles](#) for online platforms to increase the proactive prevention, detection and removal of illegal content inciting hatred, violence and terrorism online. The Commission will carefully monitor progress made by the online platforms over the next months and assess whether additional measures are needed, including possible legislative measures to complement the existing regulatory framework. This work will be completed by May 2018.

The Commission also continues to work on **preventing radicalisation in**

prisons. In this area, the Commission supports Member States to develop de-radicalisation and rehabilitation schemes, as well as risk assessment tools to help judicial authorities to fight this phenomenon. On 27 February 2018, the Commission will organise a conference bringing together judges, prosecutors, prison and probation staff to discuss the criminal justice response to radicalisation and share results of ongoing projects.

6. Reinforcing the EU's external action on counter-terrorism

EU external action on counter-terrorism

Cooperation with third countries in the fight against terrorism and organised crime is a prerequisite to strengthen the Union's internal security.

Why is the Commission proposing a revised Passenger Name Record (PNR) Agreement with Canada?

Following the [opinion](#) of the European Court of Justice in July 2017 on the EU-Canada PNR Agreement, the Commission is preparing negotiations to revise the text of the Agreement.

To this effect, the Commission has today submitted a Recommendation to the Council to authorise the opening of negotiations for a revised Agreement in line with all the requirements set out by the Court in its Opinion. Given that the use of PNR data is an important tool to fight terrorism and serious transnational crime, the Council is invited to swiftly authorise the opening of these negotiations.

How is the Commission proposing to strengthen Europol's cooperation with third countries?

In the light of the EU's operational needs in terms of security cooperation with third countries, the Commission will put forward recommendations to the Council before the end of the year to authorise the **opening of negotiations for agreements on the transfer of personal data** between Europol and Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. Such agreements will further strengthen Europol's capabilities to engage with these third countries for the purposes of preventing and combatting terrorism and serious crimes.

Proposals for Council decisions on the conclusion of the Council of Europe Convention on the prevention of terrorism

To step up international cooperation on counter-terrorism, the Commission is today presenting **proposals for Council Decisions on the conclusion of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and its Additional Protocol.**

The Convention, adopted by the Council of Europe in 2005, relates to the criminalisation of terrorist and terrorist-related activities, to international cooperation regarding such offences and to protection, compensation and support for victims of terrorism. The Additional Protocol to the Convention, adopted by the Council of Europe on 18 May 2015, furthers a

common understanding of, and response to, offences related to foreign terrorist fighters.

The EU signed the Convention and its Additional Protocol in October 2015. With the adoption of the [Directive on Combating Terrorism](#) in March this year, the EU has now transposed all the provisions of the instrument, paving the way to completing its commitment to become a party to the Convention and its Additional Protocol. Today's proposal will conclude this procedure.

The High Representative and the European Commission are also working jointly to implement the decision taken by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in June 2017 on [EU External Action on Counter-Terrorism](#). This includes:

- **Strengthen the network of counter-terrorism experts in EU Delegations;**
- **Enhance cooperation** between Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations and EU Justice and Home Affairs Agencies;
- **Step up international cooperation** with partner countries, key strategic partners and key regional and multilateral partners.

For More Information

[Press release](#): Security Union – Commission presents new measures to better protect EU citizens

[Factsheet](#): Protecting public spaces

[Factsheet](#): Security Union – a Europe that protects

[Factsheet](#): Security Union – State of Play October 2017

[Eleventh Progress report towards an effective and genuine Security union](#)

[Action Plan to improve the protection of public spaces](#)

[Action Plan to enhance preparedness against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security risks](#)

[Commission Recommendation on explosive precursors](#)

[Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the EU, of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism](#)

[Annex](#)

[Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the EU, of the Additional protocol supplementing the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism](#)

[Annex](#)

[Security Union: Commission presents new measures to better protect EU citizens](#)

As announced by President Juncker in his 2017 State of the Union [Address](#), the Commission is today presenting alongside its 11th Security Union Report a set of operational and practical measures to better defend EU citizens against terrorist threats and deliver a Europe that protects. The measures aim to address vulnerabilities exposed by recent attacks and will support Member States in **protecting public spaces** and help deprive terrorists of the means to act. The Commission is also proposing to further strengthen the **EU's external action on counter-terrorism** – including through **Europol** – and is recommending the EU open negotiations on a **revised Passenger Name Record agreement with Canada**.

First Vice-President Frans **Timmermans** said: *“We will never give in to terrorists who attack our security and our freedoms. Europeans demand that national governments and the EU tackle these risks with determination. The new actions announced today will help Member States to deprive terrorists of the means to carry out their evil acts and will also better protect our public spaces, and thus our way of life.”*

Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris **Avramopoulos** said: *“Terrorism knows no borders. We will only be able to fight it effectively if we do so jointly – both within the EU and with our partners on a global scale. Effective exchange of information such as Passenger Name Records is critical for the security of our citizens, which is why today we recommend to the Council to authorise negotiations for a revised agreement with Canada and why we will propose to have international agreements between Europol and key countries. We will also continue working with our Member States towards the creation of a future European Intelligence Unit.”*

Commissioner for the Security Union Julian **King** said: *“Sadly there can never be zero risk of terrorism, but we are continuing to cut the space terrorists have to prepare and carry out their crimes. As terrorist tactics change, we are stepping up our support to Member States in meeting these threats: helping protect the public spaces where people gather, while cutting off terrorists' access to dangerous bomb-making materials, and sources of finance.”*

Protecting public spaces

With terrorists increasingly targeting public and crowded spaces, as shown by the recent attacks in Barcelona, London, Manchester and Stockholm, the Commission is today presenting an **Action Plan** to step up the support to Member States efforts to protect and reduce the vulnerability of public spaces. Measures include:

- **Increased financial support:** The Commission is today providing **€18.5 million** from the Internal Security Fund to support transnational projects improving the protection of public spaces. In 2018, a further **€100 million** from the **Urban Innovative Actions** will support cities investing in security solutions.
- **Guidance material:** Over the next year, the Commission will issue new guidance material to help Member States address a wide range of issues related to the protection of public spaces and raising public awareness. The guidance will include technical “security by design” solutions to make public spaces more secure while preserving their open and public nature.
- **Exchange of best practices:** The Commission will establish a **Practitioners’ Forum** and set up a **High Risk Security Network** in November to provide a platform for common training and joint exercises to improve preparedness against attacks.
- **Improving cooperation between local actors and the private sector:** The Commission will set up an **Operators’ Forum** to encourage public-private security partnerships and engage with private operators such as shopping malls, concert organisers, sports arenas and car rental companies. The involvement of local and regional authorities will be reinforced with a dedicated **high-level meeting** on best practice for the protection of public spaces.

While the likelihood of such attacks is low, the Commission is today also proposing an **Action Plan** to step up EU level preparedness, resilience and coordination against attacks involving **chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) substances**. Measures proposed today include the creation of an EU CBRN security network and a CBRN knowledge hub to be set up in the European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC) in Europol.

Depriving terrorists of the means to act

Depriving terrorists of the means to carry out terrorist acts is crucial to prevent further attacks from taking place. The Commission is today presenting additional short-term measures to:

- **Restrict access to substances used to make home-made explosives:** The Commission is today presenting a **Recommendation** setting out immediate steps to prevent the misuse of such substances by terrorists. The Commission is also stepping up its **review of the Regulation on explosive precursors** with an evaluation that will be followed by an impact assessment during the first half of 2018.
- **Support law enforcement and judicial authorities when they encounter encryption in criminal investigations,** without weakening encryption at a more general level or affecting a large or indiscriminate number of people: The Commission is today proposing technical support measures, a new toolbox of techniques, and training, and proposes setting up a **network of points of expertise**.
- **Tackle terrorist financing:** The Commission will look into the obstacles to access financial transaction data in other Member States, and possible EU measures to facilitate and speed up such access.

Reinforcing the EU's external action on counter-terrorism

The Commission is also today proposing to strengthen the EU's external action and cooperation with third countries on counter-terrorism and other serious transnational crime by:

- Recommending to the Council to authorise the opening of negotiations for a **revised Passenger Name Records Agreement with Canada**, in line with all the requirements set out by the European Court of Justice in its [opinion](#) of 26 July.
- Enhancing Europol's cooperation with third countries by presenting, before the end of the year, recommendations to the Council to authorise the opening of negotiations for agreements between the EU and **Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey** on the **transfer of personal data between Europol** and these countries to prevent and combat terrorism and serious crimes.

The 11th Security Union Report is also looking at the next steps on countering radicalisation online and offline. Beyond these practical measures for the short term, to be taken over the next 16 months, the Commission is working towards a **future European Intelligence Unit**, as announced by President Juncker as part of his vision for the European Union by 2025.

Background

Security has been a political priority since the beginning of the Juncker Commission's mandate – from President Juncker's [Political Guidelines](#) of July 2014 to the latest [State of the Union address](#) on 13 September 2017.

The [European Agenda on Security](#) guides the Commission's work in this area, setting out the main actions to ensure an effective EU response to terrorism and security threats, including countering radicalisation, boosting cybersecurity, cutting terrorist financing as well as improving information exchange. Since the adoption of the Agenda, significant progress has been made in its implementation, paving the way towards an effective and genuine [Security Union](#). This progress is reflected in the Commission's [reports published](#) on a regular basis.

For More Information

[Q&A](#): Security Union – Commission presents anti-terrorism package to better protect EU citizens

[Factsheet](#): Protecting public spaces

[Factsheet](#): Security Union – a Europe that protects

[Factsheet](#): Security Union – State of Play October 2017

[Eleventh Progress report towards an effective and genuine Security Union](#)

[Action Plan to improve the protection of public spaces](#)

[Action Plan to enhance preparedness against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security risks](#)

[Commission Recommendation on explosive precursors](#)

[Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the EU, of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism](#)

[Annex](#)

[Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the EU, of the Additional protocol supplementing the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism](#)

[Annex](#)

[Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on an Agreement between the European Union and Canada for the transfer and use of Passenger Name Record \(PNR\) data to prevent and combat terrorism and other serious transnational crime](#)

[Annex](#)

[**At home, at work, at school... – New digital publication presenting the life of women and men in Europe**](#)

Our lives are filled with different milestones, such as starting school, leaving the parental home and starting work, getting married, having children, retiring... When it comes to education, employment, careers and earnings, but also childcare, health and nutrition habits, or cultural, sports and internet habits, there are large differences between women and men but also between EU Member States.

[Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)

[**August 2017 compared with July 2017 –**](#)

Production in construction down by 0.2% in euro area – Down by 0.4% in EU28

In August 2017 compared with July 2017, seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector decreased by 0.2% in the **euro area** (EA19) and by 0.4% in the **EU28**, according to first estimates from **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. In July 2017, production in construction remained stable in the **euro area**, while it grew by 0.1% in the **EU28**.

[Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)

Daily News 18 / 10 / 2017

Le Président Juncker participe au Sommet social tripartite

Aujourd'hui, le Président de la Commission européenne, Jean-Claude **Juncker**, participera au Sommet social tripartite pour la Croissance et l'Emploi. Il sera accompagné par Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Vice-Président pour l'Euro et le Dialogue social, la Stabilité financière, les services financiers et l'union des marchés des capitaux; et Marianne **Thyssen**, Commissaire pour l'Emploi, les Affaires sociales, les Compétences et la Mobilité des travailleurs. Le Sommet social tripartite a lieu deux fois par an et est une occasion d'avoir un dialogue entre les institutions européennes au niveau présidentiel et les partenaires sociaux européens (syndicats et organisations d'employeurs). Avant le [Sommet social pour une croissance et des emplois équitables, qui aura lieu le 17 novembre à Göteborg](#), le thème de la réunion aujourd'hui est 'Façonner l'avenir de l'Europe: renforcer la résilience et promouvoir le progrès social et économique pour tous'. Les discussions se concentreront sur la dimension sociale de l'Europe et les progrès accomplis – y compris sur le [Socle européen des droits sociaux](#) et la [note de réflexion sur la dimension sociale de l'Europe](#). Les participants parleront également des façons visant à améliorer l'implication des partenaires sociaux dans les politiques et les réformes au niveau national, et l'investissement dans l'apprentissage à l'ère numérique. Une conférence de presse aura lieu vers 17h15 et peut être suivie [ici](#). Plus d'informations sur le Sommet sont disponibles [ici](#). Une déclaration conjointe sera publiée [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Christian Wigand – Tel.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumillion – Tel.: + 32 229 67094)

Security Union: Commission presents new measures to better protect EU citizens

The Commission is today presenting alongside its 11th Security Union Report a set of operational and practical measures to better defend EU citizens

against terrorist threats and deliver a Europe that protects. The measures aim to address vulnerabilities exposed by recent attacks and will support Member States in protecting public spaces and help deprive terrorists of the means to act. The Commission is also proposing to further strengthen the EU's external action on counter-terrorism – including through Europol – and is recommending the EU open negotiations on a revised Passenger Name Record agreement with Canada. First Vice-President Frans **Timmermans** said: *“The new actions announced today will help Member States to deprive terrorists of the means to carry out their evil acts and will also better protect our public spaces, and thus our way of life.”* Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship **Dimitris Avramopoulos** said: *“Terrorism knows no borders. We will only be able to fight it effectively if we do so jointly – both within the EU and with our partners on a global scale.”* Commissioner for the Security Union **Julian King** said: *“As terrorist tactics change, we are stepping up our support to Member States in meeting these threats: helping protect the public spaces where people gather, while cutting off terrorists' access to dangerous bomb-making materials, and sources of finance.”* A [press release](#) and [Q&A](#) as well as a [factsheet on protecting public spaces](#) will be available at the start of the press conference with Commissioner King, which follows the readout of the College meeting and which will be broadcast [live on EbS](#). (For more information: *Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456; Tove Ernst – Tel.: +32 229 86764; Markus Lammert – Tel.: +32 299 80423*)

EU-U.S. Privacy Shield: First review shows it works but implementation can be improved

Today the Commission has published the first annual report on the functioning of the EU- U.S. Privacy Shield. It shows that in its first year of operation this framework has ensured adequate protection and safeguards for personal data transferred from the EU to the U.S. All the necessary administrative structures and procedures have been put in place in the U.S., including new redress possibilities for Europeans. Safeguards regarding access to personal data by U.S. public authorities are in place. However, the implementation of the framework can be improved further. Vice-President **Ansip** said: *“Making international data transfers sound, safe and secure benefits certified companies and European consumers and businesses, including EU SMEs.”* Commissioner **Jourová** added: *“Our first review shows that the Privacy Shield works well, but there is room for improving its implementation. The Privacy Shield is not a document lying in a drawer. It's a living agreement that both the EU and U.S. must actively monitor to ensure we keep guard over our high data protection standards”.* The 2017 report suggests a number of ways in which this can be done, including awareness raising for EU individuals about how to exercise their rights under the Privacy Shield and more proactive and regular monitoring of companies' compliance with their Privacy Shield obligations by the U.S. Department of Commerce, as well as stepping up cooperation between privacy enforcers, amongst other measures. A press release with more information will be available [here](#) when the press conference starts, as well as [Q&As](#) on the Privacy Shield. (For more information: *Christian Wigand– Tel.: +32 229 62253; Mélanie Voin – Tel.: +32 229 58659*)

Mergers: Commission opens in-depth investigation into proposed merger of

Celanese's and Blackstone's acetate tow activities

The Commission has opened an in-depth investigation to assess under the EU Merger Regulation the proposed creation of an acetate flake and acetate tow joint venture by Celanese and Blackstone. The Commission has concerns that the transaction may reduce competition in the acetate tow market, where the joint venture would be a new market leader in an already highly concentrated market. After its initial investigation, the Commission considers that the only two remaining major competitors would not exert sufficient competitive pressure on the merged entity, while the industry is characterised by high barriers to entry. Moreover, the Commission has preliminary concerns that the proposed transaction would make tacit coordination between tow suppliers more likely. The full press release is available online in [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Yizhou Ren – Tel.: +32 229 94889)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Maple by Borealis, Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan Board and SSE

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over Maple Topco Limited of the UK by Borealis European Holdings B.V. of the Netherlands, ultimately controlled by the Omers Administration Corporation of Canada, Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan Board (OTPP) of Canada and SSE Plc of the UK. Maple is active in meter asset provision to energy suppliers in the UK. Borealis is a manager for Omers which is the administrator of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System Primary Pension Plan. OTPP is the administrator of Canada's largest single-profession pension plan. SSE is an energy company with operations in the UK and Ireland. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because of the limited overlap between the companies' activities. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.8623](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Yizhou Ren – Tel.: +32 229 94889)

EU Anti-Trafficking Day: Stronger action needed to fight trafficking in human beings

To mark the 11th EU Anti-Trafficking Day, the European Commission is today calling for a renewed commitment to eradicating trafficking in human beings. Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris **Avramopoulos** said: *“Every day, women and girls, men and boys, EU and non-EU citizens, are exploited by unscrupulous traffickers for profit. On EU Anti-Trafficking Day, we are reminded of the gravity of this heinous crime, which often has strong links with cross-border organised crime and takes advantage of irregular migration routes. It is imperative that all authorities and stakeholders strengthen their work on prevention by untangling the complex chain of trafficking, reducing demand, following the money and ensuring better access to justice for the victims. We stand ready to further support our Member States and cooperate more closely with our international partners in working towards eradicating trafficking in human*

beings." The Commission will shortly publish its priority actions to address trafficking in human beings. These will build on the ongoing work, taking stock of the achievements of the [EU strategy 2012-2016](#) and ensuring the continuation of efforts, including coordination with stakeholders and increasing the knowledge base. (For more information: Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456; Tove Ernst – Tel.: +32 229 86764; Markus Lammert – Tel.: +32 299 80423)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

19 October Commissioner Andriukaitis – Citizens' Dialogue in Bucharest

Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis **Andriukaitis**, is on official visit to Romania on 19 – 20 October. During his official visit, he will meet with the Prime Minister of Romania, Mr Mihai Tudose, as well as Mr Petre Daea, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. Later on Thursday, he will hold a [Citizens' Dialogue](#) together with Mr Florian-Dorel Bodog, Minister of Health, in Bucharest at 17:30 EEST, which can be followed [live](#). In addition to health and food safety topics, Commissioner invites citizens to discuss general issues related to the European Union. Citizens and media can attend the debate in person. (For more information: Anca Paduraru – Tel.: +32 229 91269; Aikaterini Apostola – Tel.: +32 229 87624)

La Commissaire Thyssen participe au lancement de la Carte européenne du handicap en Belgique

Demain, le 19 octobre, la Commissaire chargée de l'Emploi, des Affaires sociales, des Compétences et de la Mobilité des travailleurs, Marianne **Thyssen**, participera au lancement belge de la Carte européenne du handicap. La Carte européenne du handicap fait partie d'un projet pilote financé par la Commission européenne visant à rendre certaines prestations dans le domaine de la culture, les loisirs, le sport et le transport plus visibles, transparentes et accessibles aux personnes handicapées quand celles-ci voyagent en Europe. Actuellement, il n'y a pas de reconnaissance mutuelle du statut d'handicap entre les Etats-Membres de l'UE, ce qui rend les choses difficiles pour les personnes handicapées voyageant dans d'autres pays de l'UE. Par exemple, leurs cartes nationales du handicap pourraient ne pas être reconnues. La Carte européenne du handicap améliorera cette situation. A la veille du lancement, la Commissaire **Thyssen** a dit: *"Un handicap ne disparaît pas en franchissant une frontière européenne. La Commission européenne a lancé la Carte européenne du handicap afin d'assurer un égal accès aux gens handicapés aux musées, parcs d'attraction ou centres sportifs de tous les pays participants. Je félicite la Belgique d'être l'un des premiers pays à mettre en place la Carte européenne du handicap. J'espère que beaucoup de pays suivront rapidement cet exemple. La Carte européenne du handicap est une étape importante vers une société plus équitable à laquelle chacun peut participer pleinement."* Le projet pilote a été lancé en février 2016 dans 8

pays: la Belgique, Chypre, l'Estonie, la Finlande, l'Italie, Malte, la Slovénie et la Roumanie. Plus d'informations sur le projet pilote et la Carte européenne du handicap sont disponibles [ici](#). Un communiqué de presse contenant davantage d'informations sur l'événement de lancement sera publié [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Christian Wigand– Tel.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumillion – Tel.: + 32 229 67094)

Commissioners Crețu and Navracsics at the Danube Strategy annual forum

Commissioner for Regional policy Corina **Crețu** and Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor **Navracsics**, are in Budapest today and tomorrow to attend the 6th annual forum of the [Danube macro-regional strategy](#), entitled "A secure, connected and prospering Danube Region". Commissioner **Crețu** said: *"To me there is no greater priority than better connectivity in the region, encompassing land transport and navigability. This is key to unlock the full potential of the Danube Strategy. Political commitment and coordination are crucial here."* Commissioner **Navracsics** said: *"The concerns of people in the Danube region range from air quality to traffic congestion and from energy security to water quality. The work of the Commission's Joint Research Centre, such as a new dashboard offering better access to data, enables authorities across the Danube region respond to their citizens' concerns more effectively."* The Danube Strategy is one of the four [macro-regional strategies](#). It was launched in April 2011, gathering nine EU countries (Austria, Croatia, Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria) and five non-EU countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine). The ministers in charge of the Strategy will tomorrow adopt a joint statement setting out principles and priorities for the future – regional energy security, infrastructure development and clean connectivity, which can be boosted with an optimised use of EU funds. Also at the forum, the Commission's [Joint Research Centre](#), for which Commissioner Navracsics is responsible, will present the latest addition to the Commission's [Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies, the Territorial Dashboard](#). This tool visualises data for all EU regions – on the economy, education, employment, health, energy or transport – in a user-friendly way. This will help regional authorities of the Danube region to target investments where they are most needed and where they can have the greatest impact. (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel.: +32 229 67083; Sophie Dupin de Saint-Cyr – Tel.: +32 229 56169; Joseph Waldstein – Tel.: +32 229 56184; Julia-Henriette Bräuer – Tel.: +32 229 80707)

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