<u>Thursday 8 March 2018: EU Mayors'</u> <u>Conference on "Building Urban Defences</u> <u>Against Terrorism" in Brussels</u>

The news:

On 8 March, the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions are jointly organising the EU Mayors' Conference on "Building Urban Defences Against Terrorism: Lessons Learned From Recent Attacks". The conference will focus on lessons learned from recent terrorist attacks and the sharing of best practices and useful solutions to enhance the protection of public spaces, including the implementation of "security by design" solutions. Participants will also discuss measures to enhance the prevention of radicalisation at local level, public-private cooperation – building on the recently established Operators Forum – as well as funding opportunities under the different EU financial instruments.

The background:

Delivering on the <u>EU Action Plan to support the protection of public spaces</u>, presented by the Commission in October 2017, the conference will gather mayors and representatives from a number of European cities, together with national policy makers representatives from networks of cities and members of the Committee of the Regions Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX). As a follow up to the <u>Nice</u> <u>Declaration</u> of 29 September 2017, the conference will draw lessons from recent attacks and identify good practices emerging in cities across Europe.

The event:

The conference is taking place at the European Committee of the Regions in Brussels. Journalists are invited to attend the opening session from 9:00-9:45, including the opening speeches by Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris **Avramopoulos**, Commissioner for the Security Union Julian **King**, Mr. Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the Committee of the Regions and Mr Christian Estrosi, the Mayor of Nice. Closing remarks will be delivered by Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina **Crețu** and Commissioner Julian King at 16:45, and will also be open to journalists.

The agenda of the conference and registration details can be found here: https://eumayorsconference.eu

The sources:

Registration for the EU Mayors' Conference

EU Action Plan to support the protection of public spaces

13th Security Union Progress Report