

# Action plan to strengthen the fight against terrorist financing

European Agenda on Security

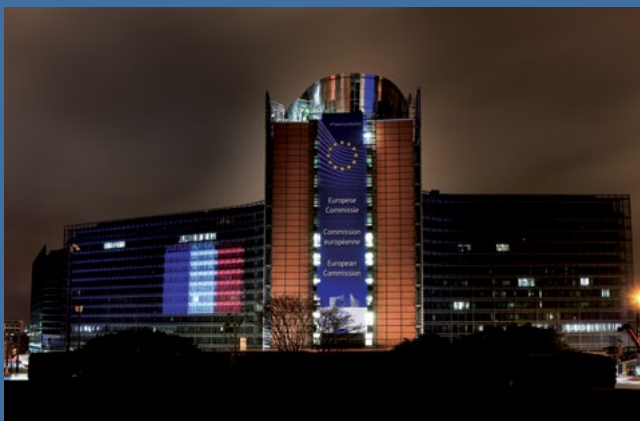
Factsheet | February 2016

*“The recent terrorist attacks on Europe’s people and values were coordinated across borders, showing that we must work together to resist these threats.”*

– European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker

Security has been a priority for the Juncker Commission since day one. On 28 April 2015, the Commission presented a [European Agenda on Security](#) for 2015-2020 to support Member States in tackling security threats and step up our common efforts in the fight against terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime.

The Agenda sets out concrete tools to ensure security and tackle these threats more effectively. [Significant progress has already been made](#) in implementing the Agenda.



The EU’s Fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive was adopted on 20 May 2015. Its main goal is to prevent the EU financial system from being used for money laundering and terrorist financing purposes.

After the events in Paris, the EU Institutions and national Governments decided to take further urgent action. The European Commission has looked at how to improve the current legislation and speed up other initiatives. Our proposals are set out in an Action Plan to Strengthen the Fight against Terrorist Financing.

The Plan has two main objectives:

## 1) PREVENT THE MOVEMENT OF FUNDS AND IDENTIFY TERRORIST FUNDING:

### Key actions:

- > Ensure virtual currency exchange platforms are covered by the Anti-Money Laundering Directive;
- > Tackle terrorist financing through anonymous pre-paid instruments such as pre-paid cards;
- > Improve access to information and cooperation between EU Financial Intelligence Units;
- > Ensure a high level of safeguards for financial flows from high risk third countries;
- > Give EU Financial Intelligence Units access to centralised bank and payment account registers and central data retrieval systems.

## 2) DISRUPT SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS:

### Key actions:

- > Tackle terrorist financing sources such as the illicit trade in goods, cultural goods and wildlife.
- > Work with third countries to ensure a global response to tackling terrorist financing sources.

Applying and updating existing laws to prevent the movement of funds and identify terrorist funding

New initiatives to strengthen the existing legal framework

Targeting the sources of terrorist funding

Helping third countries to tackle terrorist financing

Deadline	Action
Immediately	Speed up the concrete application of UN freezing measures by the EU, through enhanced information exchange and quicker implementation
	Give technical assistance to third countries to help them comply with UN measures such as sanctions and asset freezing
Early 2016	Adopt an EU blacklist to identify high risk third countries with deficiencies in fighting money laundering and terrorist financing
	Present an EU Action Plan to tackle illegal wildlife trafficking, including by terrorist organisations
	Update the EU Anti-Money Laundering Directive to address targeted issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish harmonised and enhanced due diligence measures for high risk third countries;</li> <li>- Tackle the risks of virtual currency exchange platforms and pre-paid instruments;</li> <li>- Propose centralised bank and payment account registers or electronic data retrieval systems for Member States;</li> <li>- Improve access to information and exchange of information for Financial Intelligence Units</li> </ul>
	Boost information sharing between Member States, the Commission and economic operators on how to implement restrictive measures such as UN sanctions
Second half of 2016	Help countries in the Middle East, North Africa and South East Asia to monitor and disrupt terrorist financing.
	Give technical assistance to countries in the Middle East and North Africa to help them fight trafficking of goods and cultural goods by terrorist networks
	Bring forward the date for application of the Fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive
	Propose new EU legislation to harmonise the criminal sanctions for money laundering
	Propose new EU legislation against illicit cash movements, including possible limits on cash or assets carried or transported across borders
	Assess the need for additional EU legislation for freezing terrorist assets within the EU
	Ensure mutual recognition by EU Member States of asset freezes and confiscations
2017	Publish a report on money laundering and terrorism financing with recommendations to Member States
	Propose legislation to strengthen the power of customs authorities to tackle terrorists' trade in goods and cultural goods.