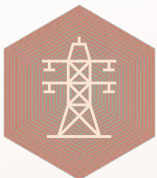# EU Security Union – key achievements
Seventh Progress Report

#SecurityUnion

May 2024

Throughout its mandate, the Commission has stepped up efforts to prevent and respond to the EU's internal and external security challenges. Four years after the adoption of the EU Security Union Strategy 2020-2025, the EU is now better equipped to face security challenges, leveraging a solid framework to address evolving threats cohesively. The Seventh Progress Report on the implementation of the Security Union Strategy takes stock of the progress made over the past four years:

Better protected and more resilient physical and digital infrastructure

Since the beginning of this Commission's mandate, the EU has taken measures to enhance the protection of critical infrastructure and the resilience of the entities operating it, to avoid or mitigate the impact of disruptions to essential services. The EU has reinforced the legal framework to address current and future online and offline risks, from cyberattacks to natural disasters.

- Adoption of the Directive on the **Resilience of Critical Entities** (December 2022)
- Revised Directive on Network and Information Security **(NIS2)** (December 2022)
- Adoption of a proposal for a Council Recommendation for a **Critical Infrastructure Blueprint** (September 2023)
- Enhanced resilience of the **energy, transport and space sectors**
- Agreement between the European Parliament and the Council on the **Cyber Resilience Act** (November 2023)
- Agreement between the European Parliament and the Council on the **Cyber Solidarity Act** (March 2024)
- Stress tests in the **energy sector** (2023)

Fighting terrorism and radicalisation

Under the Security Union Strategy, the EU has adopted a set of measures and tools to support Member States in the fight against terrorism. The EU is now better equipped to anticipate, prevent, protect and respond to terrorist threats.

- Adoption and implementation of the **EU Agenda on Counter-Terrorism** (December 2020)
- Adoption (May 2021) and entry into force (June 2022) of the Regulation on addressing the dissemination of **terrorist content online**
- Stepping up the fight against terrorist content online through the **EU Internet Referral Unit** in Europol and the **EU Internet Forum**
- Establishment of the **EU Knowledge Hub for the Prevention of Radicalisation** (June 2024)
- Entry into force of the **Regulation on the marketing and use of explosives precursors** (February 2021)

Fighting serious and organised crime

Organised crime is a threat to European citizens, public institutions, businesses, as well as the economy and democracy as a whole. The EU has taken measures to dismantle organised crime structures and tackle threats in areas such as cybercrime, illegal trafficking of drugs and other goods, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, environmental crime, economic and financial crime and anti-corruption.

- Adoption of the **EU Strategy to tackle organised crime** 2021-2025 (April 2021)
- Adoption of the **EU Roadmap to fight drug trafficking and organised crime**, including the launch of the **European Ports Alliance** (October 2023)
- Creation of the **EU Drugs Agency** (July 2024) with a stronger mandate
- Implementation of the **Firearms Directive** by all Member States
- Reinforced the **European Centre Against Migrant Smuggling** in Europol and launched a **Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling** (November 2023)
- Revision of the **Anti-trafficking Directive** (January 2024)
- Adoption of the **Directive on asset recovery and confiscation** (December 2023)
- Proposal for stronger rules to criminalise corruption offences and harmonise penalties across the EU and creation of a new **EU network against corruption** (May 2023)
- **EU Agenda and Action Plan on Drugs 2021-2025** (2020)
- **EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse** (2020)
- Interim regulation on the **processing of personal and other data for the purpose of combatting child sexual abuse** (adopted 2020, extended 2024)

Secure borders and stronger law enforcement and judicial cooperation

In 2022, cooperation within the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) led to 9 922 arrests, the identification of 4 019 victims of trafficking of human beings, the arrest of 3 646 migrant smugglers, the seizure of over EUR 180 million in assets and money seized and the seizure of over 62 tonnes of drugs.

- **Police cooperation package** including a Recommendation on operational police cooperation, new rules on information exchange between law enforcement authorities of Member States, and revised rules on automated data exchange and a stronger role for Europol (November 2023)
- Amendment to the **Eurojust Regulation** on digital information exchange in terrorism cases (October 2023)
- Revision of the legal framework on **Advanced Passenger Information** (March 2024)
- Agreement on the **AI Act** (December 2023)
- Adoption of the **Digital Justice Package** (December 2023) to strengthen cross-border judicial cooperation
- **Stronger Europol mandate** (2020)

Strengthening the security of the EU, its neighbourhood and in partner countries

The increasing interconnection between internal and external security has only become more evident in the past few years given the current geopolitical context. The EU is safer when its partners are safer too. In 2023 alone, around EUR 700 million were spent to assist the capacities of third countries and reinforce our cooperation with them on countering terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism.

- The Commission acted quickly to pre-empt internal security threats stemming from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, such as trafficking in human beings, establishing a structured internal security dialogue on firearms trafficking and border management, and a Cyber Dialogue.
- Launch of an EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management with **Moldova**, to improve resilience and ability to counter security threats, including hybrid and cyber threats
- Strengthened cooperation with **Latin America and the Caribbean**, to fight against organised crime, drugs trafficking and financing of terrorism
- **Counter-Terrorism Dialogues** with key partner countries and multilateral organisations
- Stronger **multilateral cooperation** and cooperation with NATO
- Cooperation agreements between EU agencies **(Europol, Eurojust, ENISA, Frontex)** and partner countries to improve the exchange of information in the fight against terrorism, organised crime and cybersecurity threats