Why is security a priority?

It is the most basic and universal of rights to feel safe and secure. The Juncker Commission made security a top priority from day one. But over the recent years, security threats have evolved. EU Member States have already worked together to ensure an effective response to the diversified security threats – including new forms of terrorist attacks, radicalisation, new types of organised crime and cybersecurity threats. They will need to continue doing so in the future. Security threats know no borders and are becoming increasingly international. The complex nature of these challenges is such that no Member State can or should be made to meet them on its own. The EU budget must support Member States in their responsibilities and efforts to keep Europeans safe.

What does this mean in financial terms?

The EU budget for security and defence will be significantly reinforced, overall €27.5 billion of which €4.8 billion specifically for security.

Building a Europe resilient to future security challenges

The Juncker Commission made security a top priority from day one. It is the most basic and universal of rights to feel safe and secure. Over recent years, security threats have intensified and diversified in Europe. They are increasingly cross-border in nature meaning Member States can no longer act alone. While protecting citizens is a national responsibility, the European Union plays a vital role in supporting Member States’ efforts. The European budget can support Member States as they work to keep Europeans safe and, together, build a Union that is resilient to future security challenges and is better equipped to respond to emergencies.

Funding more than doubled

The Commission is proposing to more than double the Internal Security Fund (ISF), a key financial instrument that supports Member States’ efforts in the area of security, from €1 billion to €2.5 billion. This comes in addition to €1.1 billion for EU Agencies working in the area of security, and almost €1.2 billion for safer decommissioning of soviet-era nuclear facilities in three Member States. The total funding for security in the next long-term EU budget for 2021-2027 increases to €4.8 billion.
A REINFORCED INTERNAL SECURITY FUND (ISF)

The EU’s financial and technical support to Member States addressing security challenges has already demonstrated its worth, and will continue to do so during the next budgetary period. The increased ISF budget will be both more targeted, and better tailored to meet the security needs of our Member States.

TARGETED OBJECTIVES AND MORE EFFICIENCY

A bolstered Internal Security Fund will support Member States in a more flexible and effective way, in order to deliver on priority security areas such as: the fight against terrorism and radicalisation; serious and organised crime, cybercrime; and the protection of victims. This will be ensured by:

**KEY OBJECTIVES:**
- increasing the exchange of information between EU law enforcement authorities;
- intensifying cross-border joint operations;
- strengthening capabilities to combat and prevent crime.

**COHERENCE WITH OTHER EU FUNDS:**

**Border management:**
- The Asylum and Migration Fund
- The Integrated Border Management Fund

**Cybersecurity and prevention of radicalisation:**
- European Social Fund+
- Digital Europe Programme

**Protection of public spaces:**
- InvestEU
- Cohesion Policy Funds

**Security research:**
- Horizon Europe

**Protection of victims of terrorism:**
- Justice Programme
- Rights and Values Programme

**What will happen to the current ISF Police and ISF Borders and Visa instruments?**

To ensure better and more integrated management of the EU’s external borders, the current Borders and Visa instrument will be moved from the Internal Security Fund to the new Integrated Border Management Fund. The future Internal Security Fund follows from the Police Instrument in the current Internal Security Fund.
The new Internal Security Fund will be more flexible to better respond to Member States’ security needs:

- **€250 million – Mid-term allocation to national programmes**: Instead of allocating all funding at the beginning of 2021, 10% of the total fund will be made available to Member States in 2024.

- **€1.25 billion – Initial allocation to national programmes**

- **€1 billion – New thematic facility**: Allocated periodically, these funds will support targeted actions by Member States and allow for a rapid response to immediate security challenges or emergencies;

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Each Member State will receive a one-time fixed amount of €5 million to ensure a critical mass at the start of the programming period, plus an amount varying according to a distribution key weighted on the following criteria:

- 45% in inverse proportion to gross domestic product
- 15% in proportion to the size of territory
- 40% in proportion to the size of population

**EU AGENCIES IN THE AREA OF SECURITY**

Outside of the Internal Security Fund, over **€1.1 billion** will be dedicated to supporting EU Agencies in the areas of security – the European Police Office (EUROPOL), the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The Agencies played an important role in supporting Member States’ efforts to keep Europeans safe, and will continue to do so in the next long-term EU budget.