Europeans rightly expect their Union to keep them safe. The Juncker Commission made security a top priority from day one. We have taken decisive action to deny terrorists the means to carry out attacks, share information between Member States, protect Europeans online and reinforce the management of our borders.

‘Combatting cross-border crime and terrorism is a common European responsibility. We need to crack down on organised crime, such as human trafficking, smuggling and cybercrime. We must tackle corruption; and we must fight terrorism and counter radicalisation – all the while guaranteeing fundamental rights and values, including procedural rights and the protection of personal data.’

Then candidate for European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, Political Guidelines for the next Commission, 15 July 2014

Europeans rightly expect their Union to keep them safe. The Juncker Commission made security a top priority from day one. We have taken decisive action to deny terrorists the means to carry out attacks, share information between Member States, protect Europeans online and reinforce the management of our borders.

‘Combatting cross-border crime and terrorism is a common European responsibility. We need to crack down on organised crime, such as human trafficking, smuggling and cybercrime. We must tackle corruption; and we must fight terrorism and counter radicalisation – all the while guaranteeing fundamental rights and values, including procedural rights and the protection of personal data.’

Then candidate for European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, Political Guidelines for the next Commission, 15 July 2014

In the past four years, the Commission has taken a series of landmark steps to tighten security laws across the EU and cut terrorists off from the money, firearms and substances they use to carry out attacks.

A new law on combatting terrorism ensures that terrorism-related offences — such as travelling abroad to commit a terrorist offence, returning or travelling within the EU for such activities, training for terrorist purposes and the financing of terrorism — are now criminalised and heavily sanctioned across Europe.

The Commission has also reinforced the control of legally-held firearms in the EU. New rules make it harder to legally acquire high capacity weapons and restrict access to chemical substances that could be used to make home-made explosives.

Terrorists and criminals are constantly looking for loopholes - using false identities and setting up multiple bank accounts, they pose a risk to the security of the EU as a whole. Cutting off the sources of terrorism financing, countering money-laundering and curbing document fraud are among the most effective ways to crack down on terrorists and criminal activities.
Effective information sharing is a key element of security and border management as well as in the fight against terrorism. Thanks to the Commission’s efforts to raise awareness and provide practical solutions, information exchange has increased significantly and Member States use databases, such as the Schengen Information System, much more often.

The Schengen Information System - the most widely used information sharing system for border management and security in Europe

- contains over 82 million alerts as of 31 December 2018
- It was consulted more than 6.1 billion times in 2018 - a 200% increase compared to 2014

The Commission is working to close information gaps and allow EU information systems to work together – ensuring that border guards and police officers have the information they need exactly when they need it. In December 2017, the Commission proposed new measures to achieve full interoperability of EU information systems for security, border and migration management to enable information exchange and data sharing between the systems. This will ensure that border guards and police officers have access to the right information exactly when and where they need it.

Member States now need to ensure the full implementation of the existing rules, such as Passenger Name Records, adopted in 2016. This data is essential for identifying high-risk travellers previously unknown to law enforcement authorities and better tracking of criminal networks.

Main legislative initiatives have been presented by the Juncker Commission

- Initiatives agreed by the European Parliament and the Council:
  - Law on combating terrorism
  - Restricted access to firearms
  - Revised rules on anti-money laundering
  - Improved security of ID cards
  - Access to financial information in criminal investigations
  - Restricting the marketing and use of explosive precursors

- Initiatives still pending agreement by the two institutions:
  - European Public Prosecutor’s Office to fight cross-border terrorism
  - Improving cross-border access to electronic evidence

Main legislative initiatives have been presented by the Juncker Commission

- Initiatives agreed by the European Parliament and the Council:
  - Reinforced Schengen Information System
  - Stronger eu-LISA Agency
  - Upgrade of European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS-TCN system)
  - Interoperability of EU information systems for security, border and migration

- Initiatives still pending agreement by the two institutions:
  - Strengthened Visa Information System
  - Revision of Eurodac system
PROTECTING EUROPEANS ONLINE

Large scale cyber-attacks that have recently targeted key infrastructure across the world show that we need to invest more heavily in cyber security. With the scaled-up EU response to cyber-attacks – through the EU Cybersecurity Agency, certifications for digital products and a large-scale attack blueprint – the EU will be better prepared to face these new challenges.

In the past two years, the Commission has driven action to counter radicalisation, both offline and online. The Radicalisation Awareness Network brings together practitioners from all Member States to develop best practices, and equips them with the skills they need to address violent extremism. EU initiatives to counter terrorist propaganda and radicalisation online are showing results. In 2015, the Commission launched the EU Internet Forum which brings together governments, Europol and the biggest technology and social media companies to ensure that illegal content, including terrorist propaganda, is taken down as quickly as possible. In March 2018, the Commission adopted a Recommendation on measures to effectively tackle illegal content online with a particular focus on terrorist-related content and proposed legislation in September 2018 to ensure terrorist content is removed within one hour.

3 initiatives agreed by the European Parliament and the Council.
- Cybersecurity Act
- Combatting fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment
- Updated rules on political party funding

2 initiatives still pending agreement by the two institutions:
- Removing terrorist content online
- Network of national coordination centres in cybersecurity

PROTECTING OUR BORDERS

In an area of free movement without internal borders, managing Europe’s external borders must be a shared responsibility. We need to know who is crossing our borders and we need to be able to effectively secure our common borders.

Established in 2016, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, built on the foundations of Frontex, is today at the core of the EU’s work to support Member States in protecting the external borders. In March 2019, the European Parliament and the Council agreed upon the Commission proposal to further reinforce the European Border and Coast Guard and equip the Agency with a standing corps of 10,000 border guards to be rolled out by 2027 to ensure that Member States can rely on full EU operational support at all times. The Agency will also have a stronger mandate on returns and will cooperate more closely with non-EU countries, including those beyond the EU’s immediate neighbourhood. This reinforcement will give the Agency the right level of ambition to respond to the common challenges facing Europe in managing migration and its external borders.

No traveller will pass EU borders unnoticed as both EU and non-EU nationals are now systematically checked against all relevant databases. The Commission has also reinforced the existing Schengen Information System to better track down dangerous criminals and terrorists and put in place new systems, such as the Entry/Exit System to improve the quality and efficiency of border controls and the European Travel and Authorisation System (ETIAS) to strengthen security checks on visa-free travellers.

3 initiatives agreed by the European Parliament and the Council.
- Entry/Exit System
- ETIAS
- Reinforced European Border and Coast Guard

5 main legislative initiatives have been presented by the Juncker Commission
EU funding is an important tool to help Member States better protect their citizens. Since 2014, the EU has invested close to €3 billion in keeping Europe safe – securing our borders, combatting organised crime and terrorism and researching new security solutions. For the next budgetary period, 2021-2027, the Commission is proposing to substantially increase funding for security to €4.8 billion.