



European
Commission

SECURITY UNION: Protecting Public Spaces

October 2017



“The European Union must also be stronger in fighting terrorism. In the past three years, we have made real progress. But we still lack the means to act quickly in case of cross-border terrorist threats.”

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, 13 September 2017

In the past three years, the European Union and its Member States have taken decisive action to deny terrorists the means to carry out attacks, share information between Member States, counter radicalisation and manage our borders better. But as the recurring terrorist attacks in Europe show, more needs to be done to prevent in the future attacks such as those seen in the streets of Barcelona, Berlin, London, Manchester, Nice, Paris or Stockholm.

What these attacks had in common is that they targeted open public spaces. While the risk of such attacks can never be entirely eliminated, there are concrete operational measures Member States can take with the support of the EU in order to better protect public spaces from the threat of terrorism. In its Action Plan, the Commission has committed to providing targeted funding of up to €118.5 million over the next year, stepping up the exchange of best practice, issuing guidance material to Member States, and fostering cooperation between local actors and the private sector.

TARGETED FUNDING



EU funding supports Member States in the protection of public spaces, be it in developing urban infrastructure to secure open public spaces, raising public awareness, or investing in security research.

- €18.5 million for projects launched today to support transnational projects improving the protection of public spaces
- Up to €100 million in 2018 to support cities investing in security solutions
- €195 million in funding for 48 security research projects related to public space protection

EXCHANGING EXPERTISE AND BEST PRACTICE

The Commission will establish a **Practitioners' Forum** where law enforcement practitioners and existing law enforcement networks can share knowledge about protecting public spaces. The Commission will also establish a **High-Risk Security Network** to organise common trainings and joint exercises for law enforcement to improve their preparedness and enhance their response capacity.

DEVELOPING GUIDANCE MATERIAL



Over the next year, the Commission will issue new guidance material to help Member States address a wide set of issues related to the protection of public spaces:

- Guidance on enhancing the physical resistance of buildings
- Guidance on the security barriers in crowded places for cities and urban planners
- Guidance on 'security by design' for protective urban landscape design
- Guidance on the protection of sports and cultural events
- Guidance on the protection of landside areas at airports
- Guidance on the use of explosives detection dogs
- Guidance on information campaigns to raise public awareness

IMPROVING COOPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL ACTORS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

STAKEHOLDERS

Private operators are often owners of the infrastructure that needs protection. Whether it is a shopping mall, a football stadium or a cinema, the private sector is usually the main stakeholder. The Commission will, by the end of this year, set up an **Operator's Forum** in order to work with the private sector in developing recommendations and sharing best practices and serving as a channel to communicate between public authorities and operators of different public spaces.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES



Mayors of major cities have a crucial role to play in the protection of public spaces. The Commission will reinforce the involvement of these stakeholders and establish a dialogue to explore how communities can better enhance the protection of public spaces. The first dedicated meeting with mayors of cities and other regional and local authorities will take place early next year.

ENHANCING TRANSPORT SECURITY

Transportation means are both targets of terrorist acts but also a means to conduct attacks (e.g. hijacked planes or truck-ramming). The EU constantly monitors whether security rules and their implementation on the ground set the right framework.

AVIATION SECURITY

A comprehensive risk assessment is being carried out looking at how we can enhance security systems for detection of prohibited items and suspect passengers coming to the EU from third countries.



RAIL TRANSPORT

There is currently no EU legislative framework to protect passenger rail transport against terrorism and serious crime. On 15 June 2017, the Commission launched a common railway risk assessment and is working on further measures to improve passenger railway security.

ROAD TRANSPORT

The Commission is working on best practice security guidance for the commercial road transport sector to be ready by the end of 2017. This will focus on improving truck security by mitigating the risk of unauthorised intrusion, including hijacking or theft, of a truck for use in a terrorist ramming attack.

