



European  
Commission



SECURITY UNION:

# PROTECTING PUBLIC SPACES

EU MAYORS' CONFERENCE:  
"BUILDING URBAN DEFENCES  
AGAINST TERRORISM"

8 MARCH



*“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 from October 2017, 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 in a call currently under evaluation to support transnational projects improving the protection of public spaces
- €100 million in mid-2018 to support cities, particularly investing in security solutions
- €195 million in funding for 48 security research projects related to public space protection

## DEVELOPING GUIDANCE MATERIAL



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

- 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
- An EU vulnerability assessment checklist

## 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. On 20 December 2017, the Commission organised the first meeting of the EU **Operator's Forum** bringing together public authorities and operators of different public spaces in order to open a channel of communication between them, share lessons learnt and best practices and exchange information. A dedicated **EU Policy Group** is further guiding work in this area, helping to better coordinate actions at the EU level.



### 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 is taking place on 8 March.

## 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. In 2017, the Commission developed an EU security risk assessment with the input of the Member States and the rail sector. We are now working on further measures to improve passenger railway security.

### ROAD TRANSPORT

In January 2018, the Commission published a security guidance toolkit for the commercial road transport sector. It contains best practices aiming at improving truck security by mitigating the risk of unauthorised intrusion, including hijacking or theft.

