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“Combating 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.”

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Political Guidelines for the next European Commission, 15 July 2014

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In the past three years, the Commission has taken a series of landmark decisions 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. In April 2018, the Commission proposed to strengthen those rules even more and further close down the space in which terrorist can operate.

Terrorist and criminals are constantly looking for security 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 terrorist financing and curbing document fraud are among the most effective ways to crack down on terrorists’ and criminal activities. The Commission has already put forward number of proposals in this regard and stepped up its efforts again in April 2018.
Effective information sharing is a key element of 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 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, when they need it. For their part, Member States now have to ensure the full implementation of the existing rules, such as Passenger Name Records by 25 May. This data is essential for identifying high-risk travellers that were previously unknown to law enforcement authorities and better track of criminal networks.
The cyber-attacks that recently targeted key infrastructure across the world show that we need to invest more heavily in cybersecurity. With the scaled-up EU response to cyber-attacks – through our proposed EU Cybersecurity Agency, certification for digital products and a large-scale attack response 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 also 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. At the end of February, the Commission adopted a Recommendation on measures to effectively tackle illegal content online with a particular focus on terrorist-related content – now to be removed within 1h from its referral.

### Protecting Europeans Online

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### Initiatives ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

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<tr>
<td>Updated privacy rules for electronic communications (ePrivacy)</td>
<td>January 2017</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Agreed in October 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
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<td>EU Cybersecurity Agency (ENISA) and EU certification scheme for digital products</td>
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### 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 be able to effectively secure them. Since October 2016, the new European Border and Coast Guard Agency is assisting Member States, including a pool of 1,500 personnel who can intervene without delay whenever support is needed at one of our external borders. Moreover, no traveller will pass EU borders unnoticed as all nationals – both EU and non-EU – are now systematically checked against all relevant security databases. But to fully protect our borders, we need new systems to be adopted quickly (in the case of the European Travel Information and Authorisation System) and implemented accurately (the EU Entry/Exit System).

### Initiatives ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

- **European Border and Coast Guard Agency**
  - Systematic checks against relevant databases
  - Entry/Exit System

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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. In the next few years, we will invest a further €2.7 billion in funding to improve Europe’s security, reaching a total of €5.7 billion for the period 2014-2020.

Security is identified as a key priority in the Joint Declaration on the EU’s legislative priorities for 2018-19. The Commission will continue to drive progress ahead of the September Informal Leaders’ meeting on security, announced in the Leaders’ Agenda, paving the way towards an effective and genuine Security Union.

### 2018

- **25 May**  
  PNR Directive implementation deadline

- **4 - 7 June**  
  10th Community of Users Meeting on Secure, Safe and Resilient Societies

- **Spring 2018**  
  Revision of Visa Information System

- **September**  
  Commission Communication on a possible extension of the tasks of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office to include the fight against terrorism  
  Discussion on internal security at the EU Leaders Informal Meeting in Vienna

- **18-19 October**  
  European Council discussion on internal security and migration