WHY IS THIS 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.
WHAT IS NEW IN THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS?

A significantly reinforced Internal Security Fund of €2.5 billion that will contribute to a high level of security in the EU by tackling terrorism and radicalisation, organised crime and cybercrime and by assisting and protecting victims of crime. The Fund will increase the exchange of information between Member States’ law enforcement authorities, ensure more effective and efficient EU information systems and increase cooperation, preparedness and resilience at EU level by supporting joint operations and training. The reinforced Internal Security Fund will also support Member States with Emergency Assistance to swiftly respond in emergency and crisis situations.

A reinforcement of Europol - the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation. The future EU budget will bolster Europol and its ability to complement the work of national authorities and provide a stronger and more efficient European response to security threats.

Continuation of strictly targeted financial support for the safe decommissioning of nuclear activities in some Member States (Lithuania, Bulgaria, and Slovakia).

HOW ELSE WILL THE FUTURE EU BUDGET MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS AREA?

Investments under the EU Cohesion Policy can contribute to security, for example in areas like transport and energy where infrastructure needs to be safe and secure.

Relevant programmes focused on digital technologies, infrastructure and networks, or through research and innovation will contribute to the EU’s efforts to strengthen cybersecurity notably through the Digital Europe Programme and also Horizon Europe.

NEXT STEPS