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**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL, THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ON URBAN
TRANSPORT SECURITY**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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This impact assessment addresses different policy options on enhancing security in urban and suburban passenger transport. The assessment is based on a public consultation and supporting work made under a research programme.

Four most relevant policy options are studied in detail, namely:

- taking no action at the European level;
- proposing comprehensive, airport-style measures through Community legislation;
- requesting through legislation that all urban transport systems should develop a security plan as the logical first step for improving security; and
- facilitating practical stakeholder cooperation at European level.

This first option is clearly the weakest one. Completely uncoordinated national and even regional reactions to security threats would not only lead to an economically inefficient solution of everybody learning the hard way but it would also demonstrate a lack of solidarity against a common threat.

Organisation of urban transport and its security arrangements vary significantly across Member States and cities. Therefore the complexities involved in the second option make it inappropriate. Requesting mandatory security plans is the second-best option, but cost-efficiency and implementation considerations make intensive practical cooperation, with the Commission acting as a catalyst, the best choice in the current circumstances.

Practical stakeholder cooperation was also the preferred option of Member States representatives, transport operators and other stakeholders in the public consultation.

The Commission could stimulate such cooperation by facilitating meetings and twinning between operators and by setting up a secure information portal on urban transport security.