

EN

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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.5.2026)

While national security remains the competence of Member States, the Commission supports them. On 26 February 2026, the Commission presented the ProtectEU: Agenda to prevent and counter terrorism¹. As announced in the Agenda, the continued support of the EU agency for law enforcement cooperation (Europol) and EU agency for criminal justice cooperation (Eurojust) to Member States' law enforcement and judicial authorities will be reinforced through the revisions of the agencies' mandates. The EU is also strengthening international cooperation, including through agreements on the exchange of personal data between Europol, Eurojust and priority third countries, as well as through capacity building in key regions. Frontex also supports the security of the EU's external borders

On the same day, the Commission also presented a proposal for a directive to combat firearms trafficking and other firearms-related offences in the EU² to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement against firearms-related crimes.

The Entry-Exit System³, which became fully operational on 10 April 2026, provides an important added layer of security against terrorist infiltration into the EU. From October 2025 until April 2026, it already allowed for the detection and barring from entering the EU of more than 600 persons considered a security threat. The new Screening Regulation (EU) 2024/1356⁴, which will become applicable together with the European Pact on Migration⁵ in June 2026, will further enhance security. It will facilitate the identification and systematic checks of third-country nationals who have crossed the external borders illegally or are staying illegally on Member States' territory without having undergone entry checks.

¹ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/eu-agenda-preventing-and-counteracting-terrorism-and-violent-extremism_en.

² COM(2026) 102 final.

³ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/smart-borders/entry-exit-system_en.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02024R1356-20240522>.

⁵ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_en.