



Leaders' Agenda

September 2018

Internal security

As Leaders set out at the Bratislava Summit two years ago, the Union's objective in this area is to do everything necessary to support Member States in ensuring internal security and fighting terrorism. The European Union must help protect the public, safeguard the Schengen area and respond intelligently to a changing security environment where some threats are hybrid in nature, and where the line between internal and external security is sometimes blurred. Building on the real progress made in recent years to strengthen our collective security, we must think in more operational terms and ensure the full and effective implementation of our previous conclusions, including on cybersecurity (October 2017, June 2018) and on strengthening resilience to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear-related risks, also in light of the Salisbury attack (March and June 2018). Leaders should focus on where EU efforts can add immediate value to national ones and on ways to reinforce Europe's long-term response to emerging and new threats, as part of the new Strategic Agenda for the Union to be adopted at the June 2019 European Council.

Upgrading police and judicial cooperation

We need to step up efforts to improve police, judicial and intelligence cooperation. Much has already been done on information systems (such as the Schengen Information System) and information exchange (such as on Passenger Name Records). Work is ongoing to improve the interoperability of our different databases — an urgent necessity — and there is scope for going further.

The EU plays a key supporting role in the fight against terrorism where the threat remains immediate and where many cases are cross-border in nature. The exchange of intelligence on suspects and radicalised individuals through Europol has improved considerably. EU Member States have agreed common legislation on foreign fighters. And the Union operates as one of the main conduits for the exchange of information and of best practices on countering radicalisation. The Commission has just presented an initiative to extend the competences of the European Public Prosecutor's Office to cover cross-border terrorist crimes.

We must recognise that people smuggling and human trafficking are strategic threats, and take the fight to such networks by monitoring and disrupting their communications online and supporting regional co-operation between European police forces. We should also step up work with third countries on apprehension and prosecution of smugglers and traffickers. Intelligence sharing on smugglers between law enforcement authorities and the external dimension is slowly improving at the European level, and the number of joint police investigations is rising. Such cooperation should be intensified and made more multidisciplinary, for example by using strategic communications against the smugglers.

Do Leaders agree that:

- **negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament on interoperability should be concluded by the end of the year and all measures should be taken to make it operational by 2020?**
- **more priority and resources should be given to cross-border operations against people smuggling and human trafficking networks: internally, externally and online?**
- **we need, more generally, to take further steps to ensure efficiency and synergies among various EU and Member State actors?**

Strengthening border security

Internal security is in part dependent on a properly managed external border where those posing a clear threat or without rights of entry are denied access. Measures to enhance external border management, including through better information systems and checks, have been agreed in the past few years and are being rolled out, such as the Entry/Exit System, the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), and the establishment of the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG).

The Commission has now tabled an ambitious proposal to further strengthen the EBCG, both within the EU and as regards cooperation with third countries. It proposes in particular a new standing corps of 10,000 operational staff by 2020 and an extension of the mandate.

Leaders are invited to indicate:

- **what are, in their views, the most important elements of the proposed reform of the EBCG?**
- **whether the Commission proposal should be agreed as a matter of priority?**

Resilience in cyberspace

Ensuring a high level of security for Europeans also means going beyond the management of physical borders and space: cyberattacks and cyber-enabled crime and terrorism know no borders. Their impact on the physical world and the security of our citizens has gone beyond the critical limit. All cyber and hybrid threats — whether from malicious individuals or state actors, whether motivated by profit or by political and strategic goals — now pose a clear and growing risk to our societies and economies. Until now we have been too slow to react to these threats. We now need to acknowledge this and monitor and police them more robustly. The Commission has recently put forward proposals on the swift removal of terrorist-related on-line content, Europe's cybersecurity and the securing of free and fair elections.

In this context, Leaders are invited to discuss what they expect from the Union when it comes to:

- **ensuring the resilience of the Union's democratic systems (especially in the context of the upcoming European Parliament elections) against disinformation campaigns and the unlawful misuse of personal data.**
- **preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online.**
- **more generally, striking the right balance between effectively combating disinformation and illegal cyber activities and safeguarding fundamental rights such as the freedom of expression.**

Crisis response capability

As recent extreme weather events across Europe have shown, our security also depends on our collective ability to respond to man-made and natural disasters. The increased coordination and mutual assistance in combating forest fires have demonstrated the value of European solidarity. But more can be done.

Do Leaders agree that we should further strengthen our overall crisis management capacity and the coherence and effectiveness of the EU and national crisis response mechanisms?

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In keeping with the approach underpinning the overall Leaders' Agenda, the shorter term aspects in this note will be taken forward in the conclusions of the October European Council, while the longer term issues will form an integral part of discussions on the European Council's Strategic Agenda, to be adopted in June 2019.
