

ACI EUROPE POSITION PAPER



AIRPORTS COUNCIL
INTERNATIONAL

Airport Landside Security

May 2016

Background

On 22 March 2016, there were two explosions in the landside area inside the terminal at Brussels-Zaventem Airport inflicting significant fatalities, casualties, and destruction of the landside area of the terminal building. The explosions were the result of a coordinated and planned terrorist attack that included a subsequent attack at the Maelbeek Metro Station in downtown Brussels.

Within the transport sector, airports are the most regulated and controlled spaces for security purposes. For clarity, the security of landside areas are regulated at national level and falls under the responsibility of the police and other law enforcement entities – just as for any other similar public space (in particular metro and train stations).

ACI EUROPE & unique security expertise

Airports Council International – European region (ACI EUROPE) is the only European-wide association representing Europe's airports with over 500 airport members in 45 states. This means that ACI EUROPE has unrivalled experience and knowledge in all aspects of airport operations and, in particular, in airport security.

The ACI EUROPE Aviation Security Committee, which is over 100 members strong, gathers experience, best practices and expertise from a wide variety of airports across Europe including Israel, the Russian Federation, Turkey, UK and Spain - where significant terrorist attacks have been experienced over the years. These Committee members come from a variety of backgrounds that include intelligence services, police counter terrorism services, military services and government services.

This gives ACI EUROPE an extensive pool of knowledge in security matters, allowing the organisation to act as a unique and sought after centre of expertise – providing valuable insight into the kind of security measures that are practical, operationally feasible and prove effective against terrorist attacks.

Specific airport industry position on landside security

The last ACI EUROPE Security Committee meeting held in Madrid on 14-15 April 2016, included an in-depth session on airport landside security where best practices and valuable lessons were identified. A key aspect identified was that the security approach must be proportionate to the threat facing airports and must continue to deliver the travelling public with open, accessible and expedient air transport services.

Accordingly, the conclusions from the meeting were that:

- Any measures should be seen in the context that airport landside security measures are not aviation security measures but must form part of wider scope of public spaces security measures, aimed at protecting a range of urban soft targets; it is essential that these measures should be consistent across all transport modes.
- In order to ensure effectiveness and proportionality, such measures should not be considered at the EU level, but only at national & local level based on the appropriate security threat and risk assessments.
- There is a need to strengthen intelligence sharing and continue to work on coordination of the exchange of information with national authorities and airports.

- The moving of screening procedures to the entrances of airports is not a viable option as this presents a new target for terrorists
- The need to provide a range of option to enhance security as the threat dictates, including the use of high visibility deterrence measures (Explosive detection dog teams, high visibility law enforcement patrols, behaviour detection) and various methods used in an unpredictable way.
- Further develop guidelines and recommended practices.



AIRPORTS COUNCIL
INTERNATIONAL

ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents over **500 airports** in 45 European countries. Our members facilitate over 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe: **2 billion passengers, 20 million tonnes of freight** and **23.7 million aircraft movements** in 2016. These airports contribute to the employment of **12.3 million people**, generating **€675 billion** each year (**4.1%**) of GDP in Europe.

EVERY FLIGHT BEGINS AT THE AIRPORT.

www.aci-europe.org
Twitter: @ACI_EUROPE

© Copyright ACI EUROPE 2016.