

France: Euro 2016

10 June-10 July

Security Advisory



France will host the 2016 UEFA European Championship from 10 June-10 July 2016 amid heightened security in response to the developed terrorism threat. The country also continues to experience disruptive union-led strikes and protests over proposed government reforms. If the unsettled political atmosphere and terrorism threat carries over into the tournament, it could impact heavily on travel itineraries and security planning.

Key Observations

- Corporations and individuals attending the Euro 2016 tournament will need to be more conscious of their own security provision due to the additional pressures upon public resources.
- Emergency response planning and business continuity must form a critical part of travel itineraries for companies arranging travel packages prior to and during the tournament.
- Increased stadium security will displace the terrorism threat with non-affiliated venues, transport hubs and fan zones being attractive secondary targets.
- Delays, disruption and road closures associated with the elevated security posture and potential industrial action will impinge upon movement, necessitating contingency measures regarding travel routes, plans and logistics.



Euro 2016 venue locations

Industrial Unrest

- Union plans for strikes, combined with high security provision, will result in disruption to public services, travel delays, potential fuel shortages and congestion.
- Attendees arriving ahead of 10 June should anticipate delays to rail and air travel, and have alternative travel arrangements in place where possible.
- The situation is expected to remain fluid, requiring defined alternative travel management plans in the event of unplanned walkouts or wildcat actions.
- Protests could become volatile, particularly amid the backdrop of a state of emergency, and attendees should avoid all demonstrations and monitor the progress of industrial action.

France is experiencing a phase of public sector strikes that is impacting on public transport, oil production, fuel supplies and air travel, as unions oppose the government's drive to liberalise the labour market. A multitude of strikes are scheduled for early June. If both parties do not back down, industrial unrest will affect travel ahead of the Euro 2016 tournament. Unions are calling for a national strike on 14 June, which if held would cause widespread disruption, with protests taking place to support the strike. The labour union representing pilots, including Air France, is calling for a six-day strike from 11 June. The Solidaires Unitaires Démocratiques (SUD) is also planning to hold a series of open-ended local transport strikes in all 10 host cities from 10 June, the date tournament begins. Energy strikes could also affect electricity production and fuel supplies. Although some labour unions may withdraw their strike plans for the tournament at the last minute, wildcat strikes and associated protests could go ahead, causing disruption to travel. Opposition to the state of emergency is also growing, with the potential for anti-government protests over the restrictions.

Transport and Travel

- Visitors should ensure travel plans can account for delays, cancelled services and congestion at border entry points, key travel hubs and at domestic airports.
- Visitors should ensure all documentation; passport and necessary visas, are up-to-date and readily available. Frequent passport and identity checks should be anticipated both when entering the country and during routine stop checks.
- Visitors should consider registering with their embassy or diplomatic office upon arrival. Immigration controls when entering France will take time, with delays likely.
- Alternative routes should be planned in the event of road closures, security restrictions or other disruptions, including the flooding that is currently occurring in central France.
- An incident response plan should be drawn up, with attendees aware of emergency contact details, the location of emergency meeting places in the event of separation and means of communication if the mobile networks are disrupted.
- Attendees should also monitor official announcements concerning security advice and heightening security measures in host cities and ensure contingency measures regarding travel, movement and in the worst case scenario, evacuation, are in place.

The combination of heightened security and industrial action, particularly in the transport sector, means that travel delays should be anticipated during the lead-up to the tournament and when it begins on 10 June. At the same time, recent flooding is affecting parts of central France, including Paris. The extent of security provision and genuine or false alerts during the tournament will lengthen journey times and add to delays. Transport hubs, key tourist areas, fan zones and main routes may be closed without warning as part of the security reaction.



Source: Thelocal.fr

Sport Security

- Due to the terrorism threat, a significant security operation is in place for the tournament and around 100,000 police officers, soldiers and security personnel will be used to enforce a state of emergency.
- Police have additional powers to make arrests, carry out stop-and-search procedures, restrict movement and prevent public gatherings, which could prove controversial, as unions are using mass protests to oppose government reforms and are likely to construe the restrictions as an attack on their right to protest.
- The heightened security measures come as UEFA is drafting in up to 15,000 additional security personnel for the 110 sites, including stadiums, team hotels, fan zones and other locations.
- Each of the 24 teams has been allocated a security detail of 17 officers and two agents from the special forces, while team training grounds will be declared no fly zones.

Some 75 training scenarios have, or will have, been conducted before the tournament begins on 10 June. Authorities tested security measures during the French Cup final on 21 May, with robust search regimes and a triple security perimeter that led to significant delays and external overcrowding before the game began. Following disruption outside of the stadium due to the heavy congestion, police officials are finalising security measures ahead of the championships. However, crowding outside stadiums during and after fixtures is anticipated.



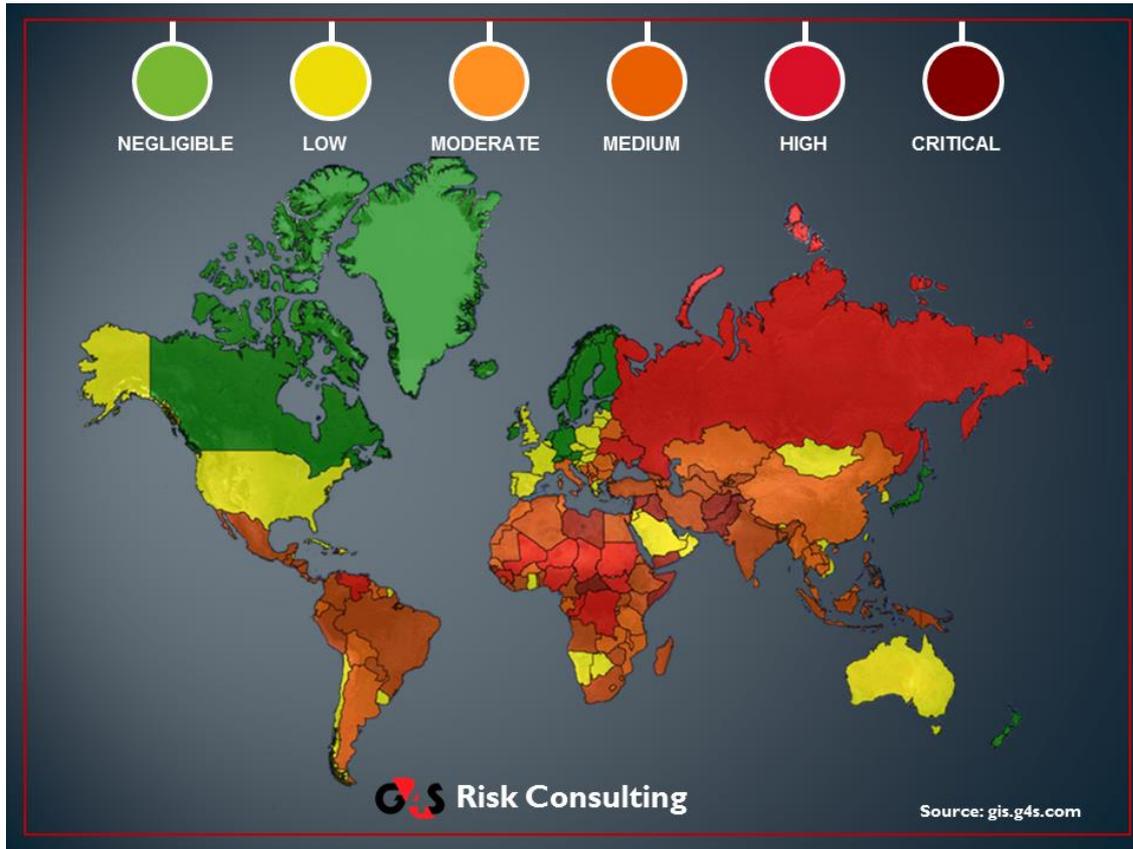
Management of crowd dynamics will therefore be critical to prevent congestion from becoming unsafe. Particular emphasis will be given to managing crowd flow, volume and avoiding bottlenecks or congestion where practical. Both 'soft' and 'hard' hostile vehicle mitigation (HVM), specifically road closures, fixed and temporary barriers, will be in place to direct pedestrian flow and mitigate the risk of a terrorist attack. Nevertheless, attendees, including corporate guests, clients, and hospitality, must be aware of their own security and have appropriate contingency plans

in place. Attendees will need to ensure travel itineraries consider extended delays, route planning and stadium access. Queues at stadiums during the tournament are expected to be long, necessitating early arrival for games, especially at Stade de France. Once in tournament venues, those responsible for risk management procedures should establish a basic understanding of the stadium layout, including the nearest emergency exits. During an alert, authorities may implement one of the following: total evacuation, phased evacuation, directed evacuation, stay/shelter in place and invacuation, where people may be directed into a stadium. While the nuances of such procedures are unlikely to be publicly known, travel managers and/or tour party leaders should be aware of the potential responses and how to react.

Fan Zones

- Security at fan zones will be high; attendees should be prepared for frequent passport / document checks, bag searches and routine stop-and-searches in the vicinity.
- Security measures for fan zones will result in localised disruption, with road closures and restrictions.
- Genuine or false alerts at fan zones will trigger a robust security response and visitors planning to attend fan zones should be aware of the risk for disruption.
- Due to the elevated security and movement restrictions, visitors should prepare for longer journey times and transport delays to and from fan zones and main transport hubs.

The former head of the French police has warned that fan zones will be a highly attractive target for terrorists, joining with calls from opposition politicians to cancel them ahead of the tournament. The government is pressing ahead, although security provision has been increased to USD 27 million to ensure supporter safety. Measures include 400 unarmed security personnel at each fan zone, with a significant police presence as support. Physical measures are expected to include search-and-screening regimes, airport-style metal detectors, explosive-trained canine units and specialist police teams. Attendees carrying large bags or rucksacks will not be allowed entry.



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