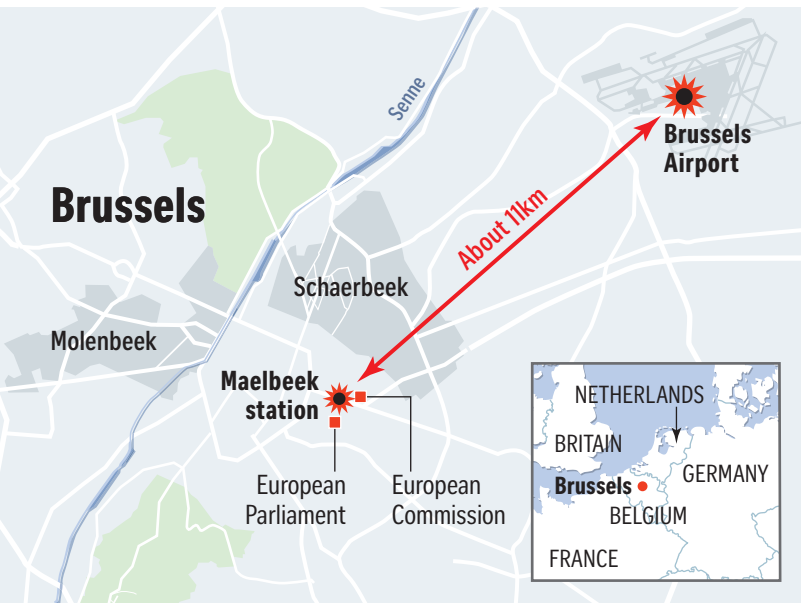


Blasts in Brussels

Twin attacks in Brussels yesterday triggered security alerts across western Europe and brought some cross-border transport to a halt.



Around 8am (3pm Singapore time)

Two blasts, at least one of which is a suicide attack, hit the main hall of Zaventem airport.

9.11am

Blast hits Maelbeek metro station near the European Union's main buildings in central Brussels, just as commuters are making their way to work during rush hour. The authorities shut down the airport and metro service, followed by train and bus services.

Around 9.20am

Belgium raises security alert to

maximum level 4 across the country. Children are told to stay in school compounds and workers are asked to stay in their offices as police search for other suspects.

Around noon

High-speed train services Eurostar and Thalys suspend service. Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel says on national television that the attacks are "blind, violent and cowardly", and calls it a "black day" for the country. He also calls for calm.