



Acting as the voice of the **security industry**

Confederation of European Security Services



Moving forward together for a more resilient Europe



RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2019-2024

Supported by



1.

The European Security Union

The European Commission and Parliament brought considerable added value to the formulation of security policies and recommendations to Member States with the Security Union and Special Committee on Terrorism. In its Strategic Agenda for 2019-2024, the European Council put the protection of citizens and freedom at the top of its priorities for the upcoming legislative term.



It is up to all European institutions and stakeholders to deliver and continue the right path taken in the past legislature. CoESS is fully committed to this joint effort by offering its expertise and experience.

2.

Legal framework for liability from Acts of Terrorism

In many countries, private security companies are not able to face possible third parties' claims in the event of an incident, which could relate to amounts exceeding available insurance coverage – leading to professional security providers dropping out of calls for tenders.



Only an EU approach can efficiently address this issue and create a coherent liability regime. Private security suppliers should not bear unlimited liability further to Acts of Terrorism.

CoESS commits to making proposals for a suitable liability regime.

3.

European framework for the exchange of security-relevant information

Private security and police should be able to exchange information as partners in a set legal framework, which protects data privacy and confidentiality. Private security guards need to be aware of risks to effectively carry out protective missions while their intelligence needs to be used by police.



CoESS urges the European Commission to evaluate national barriers to the exchange of security-related information. Likewise, the European Council Recommendation (2002/C 153/01) needs to be finally implemented after 17 years. CoESS commits to promoting the matter within the EU Operators Forum and to bringing together best practices and concrete proposals on how to transpose them.



4.

Address the lack of skilled workers through high-quality Vocational Education and Training (IVET, CVET)

The shortage of skilled workers and skills mismatches are an existential challenge to European business. In addition to higher education, Initial (IVET) and Continuing Vocational Education and Training (CVET) are key to provide young people with the skills needed on the labour market, and to provide up- or re-skilling paths especially for elder employees.



It is important that the EU continues supporting the EU Member States, in collaboration with social partners, to improve uptake, quality assurance and funding in IVET and CVET.

CoESS will continue to pro-actively move forward on this matter in cooperation with its Member Associations, BusinessEurope and its Social Partner UNI Europa.

5.

Enforce Best Value Procurement in the Security Sector

Public procurement of qualitative security services can save lives. Resilient security measures start with the selection of security providers that comply with common quality criteria and standards. But only few Member States took action so far and approved that at least 50% of criteria in public security tenders should be based on quality.



The European Commission needs to continue its Public Procurement Strategy from October 2017 and, with the support of Parliament, encourage Member States to better transpose Directive 2014/24/EU. This can be facilitated by existing EU Standards on services (CEN TC 447) and private security (CEN TC 439).

CoESS will continue to propagate high quality industry standards and steer procurers to implement the best value principle when buying private security services.¹

Security is a basic human need and a fundamental right for every European citizen. In our globalised world, it is an enabler for our society and businesses to prosper, but also an elementary condition to foster a pro-European and democratic Union. Moving forward, the EU has to **improve resilience** and continue to deliver security in public spaces, Critical Infrastructure, and in people's daily lives.

As the **voice** of the private security industry, representing over **45.000** companies with more than **2 million licensed guards** in Europe, CoESS – together with its corresponding member ASSA-i – are strongly committed partners to the institutions. Since **30 years**, their mission has been to bring added value to European policies and to foster a Union, which is well prepared for the numerous opportunities and challenges ahead.

6.

European minimum standards for security guard training in transportation

Although land, maritime and aviation transport in Europe have an important cross-border dimension, training requirements for security staff vary significantly among EU Member States – presenting a crucial shortcoming in cross-border transport security.





CoESS strongly recommends that the European Commission evaluates the lack of harmonisation of basic training requirements for security personnel operating at cross-border transportation hubs, and closes those security gaps that have been identified.

¹To support the professionalisation of public buyers of security services, CoESS published in cooperation with UNI Europa and with financial support of the European Commission a Best Value Manual to be found on www.securebestvalue.org.

7.

Update of the EU Aviation Security Framework

Common rules for aviation security, namely Regulation 300/2008 and Regulation 2015/1998, are interpreted very differently in EU Member States. Countries with looser interpretation become a loophole in the security chain. Further, legislation needs to address evolving risks such as Insider Threats, CBRN, non-metal weapons, drones and cyberattacks.




It is crucial that the Commission continues to advance on the future Aviation Strategy. CoESS commits to contribute to this process in partnership with ASSA-i through the Commission's Expert Group on Aviation Security SAGAS.

8.

Revision of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Directive

CoESS highly welcomes the recently published evaluation of Directive 2008/114/EC. An ambitious follow-up is recommended that includes a more homogeneous definition of all Critical Infrastructure and risk assessments across Member States and a widened scope of the Directive.



In order to improve CIP, at least 60% of criteria in CIP procurement tenders should mandatorily be based on quality and explicit roles and responsibilities of security staff should be allocated. CIP further requires close public-private cooperation.

CoESS commits to continue its work on an over-arching standard for security services providers to Critical Infrastructure within CEN TC 439 – the CEN Technical Committee on Private Security Services.

9.

A strong Internal Security Fund (ISF)

The ISF is a key pillar of the EU's security policies and counterterrorism efforts. In this regard, CoESS is calling for a strong future ISF that reduces administrative burdens for applicants, strengthens cooperation with the private sector, and responds in a flexible and efficient way to emerging security issues particularly to public spaces and Critical Infrastructure – including a respective financial envelope.



CoESS supports the Parliament's report on the Commission proposal establishing the ISF in the next long-term EU budget, and calls on co-legislators to find a rapid agreement both on the MFF and the future ISF.

After a very well received ISF-funded project on Insider Threat (AITRAP 2017-2018), CoESS will continue to constructively contribute to the identification of ISF funding needs, provide added value within ISF projects and deliver outcomes to the benefit of society.

10.

Strengthened Social Dialogue

A strong social dialogue is crucial to address challenges to the labour market, including the lack of skilled workers and evolving working conditions. In practice, social partners know best how to tackle these challenges. The role of social partners, existing collective agreements and the subsidiarity principle must be respected.



Social dialogue should be strengthened and, where needed, funded efficiently across Europe by the ESF+.

CoESS is committed to its social dialogue with UNI Europa and continues to support its Member Associations in strengthening (or in certain cases establishing) national social dialogues.

About CoESS

The **Confederation of European Security Services (CoESS)** acts as the voice of the private security industry, covering **18 European Union (EU) Member States** and a total of **23 countries across Europe**, representing around **2 million licensed guards** and **45,000 companies**, and generating a **turnover of €40M+**. CoESS is a member of BusinessEurope.

The private security services provide a wide range of services, both for private and public clients, ranging from European Union institutions buildings to nuclear plants, airports, Critical Infrastructure facilities, inter-modal transport hubs, public transport stations and areas, and national governmental agencies and institutions (such as asylum seekers centres, public hospitals, universities, etc.).

As defined in CEN EN 15602 standard on “Security Services Providers – Terminology”, “private security company” is one that provides private security services. Following the definition in the standard, services provided by security companies are aimed at the protection of people, property and assets. These may include the following services (non-exhaustive list):

- Manned guarding – access/exit control, airport security checks, armed security officer/guard, port security checks, reception security, site security, static guarding, store detective.
- Mobile patrolling and mobile site/area patrolling.
- Alarm response – alarms, monitoring and alarm receiving centre, alarm receiving and monitoring centre operator, alarm response, alarm response officer.
- Key holding – key holding and key storage.
- Event security – crowd controller, crowd control supervisor, crowd control management.
- Door security and supervisor.
- Close protection/body guarding.
- Public order services – city patrolling, transport security.

It excludes military services.

About ASSA-i

The **Aviation Security Services Association – international (ASSA-i)** is a corresponding member of CoESS and represents private security companies that provide security services at airports. The members’ activities have an international scope and include the surveillance and protection of civil aviation, in particular as regards the inspection of individuals, luggage and cargo, as well as any other relevant security action.

For further reading

CoESS / UNI Europa: Anticipating, Preparing and Managing Employment Change in the Private Security Industry. A project funded by the European Commission, 2018.

ASSA-i: Chemical Threats to Civil Aviation, 2018.

CoESS: Best Practices in Transport Security, 2017.

CoESS: The Use of UAs in Private Security, 2017.

CoESS: Critical Infrastructure Security and Protection – the Public-Private Opportunity, 2016.

ASSA-i: Position Paper on the EU Aviation Strategy, 2016.

CoESS: The New Security Company, 2015.

CoESS / UNI Europa: Buying Quality Private Security Services. A project funded by the European Commission, 2014.



Acting as the voice of the **security industry**

Confederation of European Security Services



coess.eu

Confederation of European Security Services

Jan Bogemansstraat | rue Jan Bogemans 249
B-1780 Wemmel
Belgium

For more information please contact:

Catherine Piana | Director General
catherine@coess.eu | T +32 472 18 01 07

Alexander Frank | Head of EU Affairs
alexander@coess.eu | T +32 471 58 82 07