



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

Confederation of European Security Services



# Manifesto for the EU Elections 2024



February 2024

## About CoESS – the voice of the European private security industry

Security is a fundamental right for every European citizen and a precondition for the functioning of our societies and economies.

In our globalised world, security services are not only an **enabler** for safe and efficient supply chains. They protect society from increasingly complex threats and **represent an essential service** for the resilience of our European democracies.

The European Union has to **reinforce the security of everything that matters most to the functioning of our societies and economies** – ranging from public spaces to Critical Infrastructure. To do this, we have to think about security in all its dimensions.

To this end, CoESS recommends in this manifesto a **holistic five-point action plan** for a more social, attractive, resilient, innovative and competitive Europe during the next legislative mandate of EU institutions.



### For a social Europe



A strong Sectoral Social Dialogue is an important pillar of the European social model and key to manage employment change in the security services. To protect social cohesion, it is essential that the EU better strengthens Social Dialogue.

#### Concrete actions should include:

- Fully respecting the Social Partner autonomy and no interference of EU law into Collective Bargaining.
- Revising the EU Public Procurement Directive to guarantee that public contracts ensure bidders' compliance with collective agreements (where they exist), consider quality criteria and adapt to prices according to updates in labour laws and collective agreements.
- Involving Sectoral Social Partners more effectively in EU policymaking, incl. through Social Dialogue Coordinators within the Commission services.
- Strengthening the EU's support of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue and tailor ESF+ funding to the needs of national Social Dialogues.

### For an attractive Europe



Labour markets face significant labour and skills shortages. This trend heavily impacts essential services, such as private security, and risks undermining public security in the face of the rising demand.

#### Concrete actions should include:

- Continuing the promotion of re- and upskilling through initiatives like the EU Skills Agenda and in support of the Digital Decade policy programme.
- Ensuring the provision of relevant IT skills, from basic to AI literacy, with involvement of Sectoral Social Partners.
- Providing support to Member States to make the EU more attractive for 3rd country nationals, including as part of the transposition of the EU law on legal migration.
- Promoting better collaboration among EU Member States on cross-border background checks of security personnel by means of an EU Council Recommendation.

### For a resilient Europe



Security services are an integral part of the security chain that protects Critical Infrastructure, supply chains and public spaces. The EU should therefore continue important initiatives to promote existing quality Standards in security services and foster public-private partnerships with the industry.

#### Concrete actions should include:

- Promoting quality control of security services protecting Critical Infrastructure by means of Standards, particularly in the transposition process of the CER and NIS 2 Directives.
- Continuing to promote public-private partnerships against acts of terrorism and organised crime, for example in the EU Operators Forum and as part of the European Ports Alliance.
- Promoting the use of drones for security purposes as announced in the EU Drone Strategy 2.0, including through new Standard Scenarios and legal action in the field of C-UAS.

### For an innovative Europe



We witness a 4th industrial revolution, e.g. with the emergence of AI. CoESS strongly believes in a human-centric approach, effective data protection, and high levels of (cyber)security when regulating technologies and the data economy. New technologies can be of high benefit for public and private security, but innovation is still hampered.

#### Concrete actions should include:

- Evaluating the impact of new regulation on public and private security : data and technologies in the security sector may, in some cases, have to be subject to specific rules or exemptions.
- Fostering a legal environment, which promotes innovative services, particularly in essential services.
- Considerably promoting AI literacy to ensure effective human oversight.
- Continuing to promote a harmonized cybersecurity level of products and services in the EU.

### For a competitive Europe



Companies face an unprecedented number of crises. At the same time, they are confronted with increasing administrative burden. In the next legislative term, it is important to effectively evaluate the cumulative effects of EU regulation on competitiveness and jobs, and take corrective action.

#### Concrete actions should include:

- Focus on the enforcement of existing EU legislation rather than adding new layers of obligations to businesses: new administrative burden and cumulative effects of EU legislation must be better assessed in the EU decision-making process, and offset elsewhere if needed.
- Enhancing transparency and targeted consultations of affected stakeholders during European Commission initiatives that supplement the transposition of EU law.



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**Private security services in Europe** provide a wide range of essential services, both for **private and public clients**, ranging from **Critical Infrastructure facilities** to **public spaces and supply chains**.

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