



CoESS Fact Sheet

Introduction

CoESS, the Confederation of European Security Services, is the European umbrella organisation for some 30 national private security companies' associations. It was founded in 1989. CoESS is the only representative European employers' organisation defending the interests of the private security industry and is recognised by the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) as a European sectoral social partner in accordance with the European Treaties.

Objectives

CoESS' core objective is to defend the interests of its national member federations and of their member companies, both at European and at international level, and to represent those joint interests, in particular through its involvement in the work aimed at harmonising national private security legislation and regulations.

CoESS' main mission is to become the sole spokesperson for the private security industry in relation to the EU Institutions and other key stakeholders in order to ensure the highest possible quality level for the industry as a whole.

Representativeness

CoESS represents 21 EU Member States and a total of 28 countries, which translates into some 50,000 private security companies employing a total of approximately 1.7 million private security guards. The European private security industry generates a yearly turnover of around € 15 billion Euros.

CoESS' member associations include: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

National member organisations of CoESS comprise major multinationals such as Group 4 Securicor, Securitas, Prosegur, Brink's, and a large number of national players of different sizes, contributing to the total of 50,000 private security companies, which CoESS represents.

Furthermore, CoESS has two corresponding members, i.e. ESTA, the European Security Transport Association, and ASSA-I, the Aviation Security Services Association International. ESTA was founded in 1975. It represents the cash industry logistics businesses throughout Europe and 90% of the European Cash-in-Transit (CIT) industry. ESTA embodies 136 members of which 68 are effective, 57 adherent, 7 associate and 4 corresponding. ASSA-I was founded in June 2002. It represents the 6 most important European security companies active in providing civil aviation security services throughout Europe (70%). The activities of ASSA-I's members involve surveillance and protection of civil aviation, in particular as regards the inspection of individuals, luggage and cargo.



Private security?

CoESS' member federations cover a wide range of private security services including, but not limited to: cash-in-transit (CIT), cash processing, security training, bodyguarding, beat patrol, commercial manned guarding, in-house manned security, event security (crowd control), door supervising, alarm monitoring, CCTV monitoring and mobile alarm response.

European role and importance of CoESS

CoESS is currently the sole European organisation acting on behalf of the industry in the European Member States and in the New and Candidate Member States, and this for all branches of the private security industry. Given the increasing attention over the last years, paid by the EU and its Institutions to the role and the importance of our industry, CoESS is also the main partner for all European Institutions dealing with security.

CoESS has gained official EU recognition by the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, DG Internal Market, DG Enterprise, DG Education and Culture, DG Justice and Home Affairs, DG Transport and Energy, DG Enlargement of the EU, DG Economic and Financial Affairs, DG External Affairs), the European Parliament and the Council of Europe.

CoESS is also officially recognised as a privileged partner and interlocutor in other European organisations and bodies such as the European Standardization Institute (CEN), the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), the Association of European Manufacturers and Installers of Fire and Security Systems (Euralarm), the European Organization for Security (EOS), the European Business Services Round Table (EBSRT) and the European Employers Network (EEN). It maintains a close working relationship with other European confederations, amongst which BusinessEurope, UNICE, EuroCommerce, HOSPEEM, EFCI, Eurociett, CEMR-EP and others.

Facts and figures

As the result of a European-wide consultation round, CoESS succeeded in obtaining an updated and accurate view of the private security industry throughout Europe today. The study entitled 'CoESS Facts & Figures 2008' aims to provide a general picture of the private security industry in each EU Member State concentrating on their legal and socio-economic realities. The outcome of the study will in turn identify focal points for the future development of a European model for the private security industry. The full study can be consulted on the CoESS website (www.coess.eu).