



## Statement Call for EU measures towards a safe and secure economic recovery of the tourism and transport sectors

Brussels, 29 April 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many countries to introduce strict contingency measures, which will continue to have a particularly severe effect on the tourism and transport sectors. Private security plays an important role in the value chain of these sectors. The Confederation of European Security Services (CoESS) therefore highly welcomes recent announcements of the EU Tourism Ministers and the European Commission to provide recommendations for homogenous rules for air, sea and land mobility, as well as safe operation of tourism across the EU. CoESS calls on the EU to provide (1) targeted aid to the tourism and transport sectors; (2) common guidelines that ensure a safe and secure return to freedom of movement and tourism within the Schengen Zone; and (3) better engagement of competent authorities with private security associations to support this process.

### Ensure the survival of the tourism and transport sectors

CoESS welcomes the EU's immense efforts to help citizens, workers and businesses in this unprecedented crisis, but is very concerned about the severe commercial situation of the tourism and transport sectors. Private security plays an important role in their ecosystems - from airport security to the protection of public spaces and hotels - and CoESS fears that a "Union Recovery Programme" may come too late for these sectors, if adopted after the summer.

We therefore call on the European Institutions and Member States to continue providing rapidly available, targeted aid measures to the tourism and transport sectors where needed, and strongly support the [letter](#) of the European Parliament's Tourism Task Force that calls on the European Commission to present a Tourism Rescue Action Plan. These sectors play a crucial role for the European economy. Their collapse would have severe consequences for their economic value chains, businesses and workers, regions and countries, and must be avoided by all means.

### Guidelines for the safe and secure return of economic activity in tourism and transport

The COVID-19 pandemic has established a new normal of social and economic life in Europe for the months, and probably years, to come. Protecting the health of our citizens must always be the

guiding principle on our way to economic recovery, and CoESS congratulates the European Commission and Council for the highly valuable “[Joint European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures](#)” that outlines the necessary criteria to respect on the way forward.

According to the document, borders within the Schengen-Zone will open prior to external borders. As a next step and based on the criteria outlined in the Joint Roadmap, CoESS calls on the European Commission to propose guidelines on how to re-establish freedom of movement and touristic activities within the EU as quickly and responsibly as possible. Clear and timely measures are key to provide certainty and trust to citizens and businesses before the start of the summer season 2020. EU Institutions and Member States have to work together, with respect to subsidiarity, to agree on common protocols and rules that ensure that people feel and are safe when travelling.

European coordination is essential on this matter, and CoESS highly welcomes the [agreements](#) found among EU ministers in charge of tourism on 27 April 2020, including on the importance of establishing homogeneous rules for both air, sea and land mobility. Importantly, we strongly support the European Commission’s [statement](#) to consider “protocols which should guide safe operation of tourism facilities across the EU”.

### **Better engagement needed with the private security sector**

CoESS stresses that engagement with all relevant public and private stakeholders is important to provide guidelines and recommendations to Member States before summer 2020 with regard to health screening protocols, public health and safety measures that have to be enforced at transportation hubs and public spaces used for leisure activities, such as HORECA and beaches. Private security is an important part of this stakeholder group and value chain in the tourism and transport sectors. Not only are our members heavily affected by the current contingency measures. They are also part of the solution and will play an important role in helping to enforce public health and safety measures for a safe and secure return of economic activity, in collaboration with or on behalf of public forces. The crisis has proved the important character of private security, which was recognised as essential services by the European Commission<sup>1</sup> and many Member States. CoESS therefore calls on the European Institutions and national competent authorities to engage with the sector to find safe and secure solutions for economic recovery that continues to put the health of citizens at its core and is based on the provisions of the “[Joint European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures](#)”.

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<sup>1</sup> C(2020) 1021 final



## About CoESS

CoESS acts as the voice of the private security industry, covering 23 countries in Europe and representing 2 million guards as well as over 45,000 companies. The private security services provide a wide range of services, both for private and public clients, ranging from Critical Infrastructure facilities to public spaces and facilities, including transport, events, HORECA, retail, supply chains, national government and EU institutions buildings.

CoESS is actively involved in European Social Dialogue with UNI Europa and official member of multiple EU Expert Groups, including the EU Operators Forum on the protection of public spaces as well as SAGAS (aviation security), SAGMAS (maritime security), LANDSEC (land transport security) and RAILSEC (rail transport security).

## Selected publications for further reading

[April 2020 - CoESS Statement - Better Recognition of Private Security for Safe and Secure Economic Recovery in the COVID-19 Situation \(29/04/2020\)](#)

[April 2020 - Airport Security Services Association International \(ASSA-i\) - Observations and Recommendations on the COVID-19 Situation \(15/04/2020\)](#)

[April 2020 - CoESS Statement - Call for pro-active Engagement with the Private Security Sector on the COVID-19 Situation \(14/04/2020\)](#)

[March 2020 - CoESS Statement - Observations and Recommendations on the COVID-19 Situation \(26/03/2020\)](#)

[October 2019 - CoESS White Paper - The Security Continuum in the New Normal](#)

[October 2017 - CoESS White Paper - Best Practices in Transport Security](#)