



Position Paper Guidance for the resumption of cruise ship operations in the EU

Brussels, 13 July 2020

The Confederation of European Security Services (CoESS) highly welcomes the [plans](#) of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) to coordinate the development of guidance for the resumption of operations of cruise ships in the EU upon request of the European Commission and Member States.

CoESS believes this to be a very important step to ensure coordination of the gradual restoration of cruise services at EU level, taking into account the overall public health situation.

As stated in [previous position papers](#) on tourism and transport, private security is asked to implement many of the recommendations listed in the Healthy Gateways [General guidance for restarting transportation activities to serve tourism after lifting restrictive measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#), and the European Commission's Guidelines on the progressive restoration of transport services and connectivity ([C\(2020\) 3139 final](#)), such as pre-boarding screening efforts, provision of information to passengers, as well as the implementation of access control and social distancing measures.

In this context, CoESS strongly recommends that an EU guidance document on the resumption of cruise ship operations considers the following aspects:

- In procurement and contracting practices, buyers must make sure that security staff is adequately trained and equipped, if personnel is to implement infection prevention and control measures at ship and port facilities. If those tasks are not performed by medical staff or law enforcement authorities, the best placed professionals to perform it are private security agents, who are already trained for access control and soft skills like conflict management.
- CoESS also refers to the social and quality procurement criteria defined in the Best Value Guide for "Buying Quality Private Security Services", which CoESS developed with its Social Partner UNI Europa based on the European public procurement legislation. It is co-funded by the European Commission, available at www.securebestvalue.org and very relevant to



ensure the procurement of qualified guards. CoESS believes that a reference to the guide would be valuable to make in EMSA's guidance document.

- In general, CoESS strongly recommends that buyers of private security services require that providers show compliance with the relevant standard, namely EN16747:2015, which lists the quality criteria for security services suppliers for Maritime and Port environments.

Further, CoESS strongly supports the European Commission's Guidelines on the progressive restoration of transport services and connectivity ([C\(2020\) 3139 final](#)), particularly the following recommendations:

- Clear rules on the rights and duties of transport operators and service providers should apply, e.g. if operators are responsible for ensuring distancing or refusing access, the legal framework giving them authority to put in place these measures should be clearly defined.
- Transport hubs, service providers and operators should apply business continuity principles to ensure continuous safe operations in consultation with social partners.
- Transport workers who are required, due to the nature of their work, to have a high level of interaction with others (incl. security personnel at airports and ports) should be provided by their employers with the appropriate level of personal protective equipment.
- Transport operators and service providers should have in place specific protocols in case passengers get sick or show COVID-19 symptoms during or immediately after travelling.
- The ongoing application of containment measures, as well as their easing, should at no time lead to a reduction of the high levels of EU safety and security standards in transport.

The European Commission and Member States should further engage with our industry and consider our practical recommendations, such as our [Joint Declaration](#) with our Sectoral Social Partner UNI Europa. Effective public-private collaboration on EU-, national and operator level will be crucial for a successful implementation of COVID-19 measures and crisis management.

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 and member of multiple EU Expert Groups, including the EU Operators Forum on the protection of public spaces as well as SAGAS, SAGMAS, LANDSEC and RAILSEC.

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Selected publications for further reading

[May 2020 - CoESS Position Paper - European Commission Communication “Tourism and Transport in 2020 and beyond”](#)

[May 2020 - CoESS and UNI Europa - Joint Declaration on “Ensuring business continuity and protection of workers in the COVID-19 pandemic”](#)

[May 2020 - European Business Services Alliance - Good Contracting Practices in the COVID-19 crisis](#)

[April 2020 - CoESS Statement - Call for EU measures towards a safe and secure recovery of the tourism and transport sectors](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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