EOS Considerations on
Security of Critical Infrastructure

October 2022

The European Organisation for Security (EOS), as the representative of the European Industrial and Research Security Community, welcomes the speech by President von der Leyen at the European Parliament Plenary on October 5, 2022, where she stressed the need to better protect critical infrastructure. EOS believes the deterioration of the international security outlook requires a swift and coordinated European effort to improve the protection of EU infrastructure through an integrated physical and cyber approach.

Recent acts of sabotage against undersea and rail infrastructure represent a wake-up call for Europe. As the international geopolitical situation deteriorates, a greater effort is needed at EU level to increase the protection of European infrastructure not only against cyber but also physical attacks.

A forward-looking approach based on robust research and innovation funding, leading to targeted programs, is now necessary to increase the level of cyber-physical security of critical assets.

EU-funded programs can make it possible to defragment the security market, increase strategic autonomy, foster the development of a healthy fabric of small and medium enterprises, ensure a better uptake of research results, and facilitate the development of breakthrough solutions in critical areas such as cyber security and artificial intelligence.

As international tensions increase, the risk of hybrid threats increases as well, in particular in the cyber and maritime domains where the attackers have the advantage of plausible deniability.

Infrastructure in the maritime domain is particularly at risk. Ports, offshore regassification facilities, undersea cables and pipelines, oil and gas rigs, all represent potential targets that need to be protected with cutting edge technological solutions.

Artificial intelligence-based systems must be developed and deployed to ensure the real-time protection of the infrastructure's digital components against cyber attacks.

Unmanned underwater and aerial vehicles capable of autonomous navigation capabilities are needed to protect sensitive assets such as ports, drilling rigs, regassification facilities and undersea infrastructure.

Integrated command and control systems capable of leveraging satellite surveillance, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and secure communications solutions, are needed to provide a precise operational picture, detect dangerous anomalies and respond to hostile actions.

Europe is entering a new phase where the importance of domestic security is rising rapidly. Therefore, EOS urges EU institutions to act quickly to ensure that adequate protection is provided to Europe's critical infrastructure through advanced technological solutions.

European Organisation for Security (EOS)
46 avenue des Arts, 1000 Brussels, Belgium | www.eos-eu.com
EOS is registered at the EU Transparency: 32134385519-64