



EOS Statement on the priorities of the next Multiannual Financial Framework

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EOS is the voice of the European security industry and research community active in critical domains such as borders, cyber, transport and crisis management. EOS Members, from across 16 European countries, provide security research, solutions, and services to a global market valued at over 400B€, responding to threats that are increasingly cross-border and cross-sectoral.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the urgency for the European Union to strengthen its capacity to respond to unforeseen and potentially devastating crises. Europe needs to increase its resilience against present and future threats, both of natural and malicious origin. Security and safety considerations are inextricably interconnected and must be tackled through a comprehensive approach across the entire security cycle, from prevention to containment, response and recovery.

EOS welcomes the resolve of President von der Leyen to implement an exceptional budgetary effort to respond to the crisis. A 21st century version of the Marshal Plan is required to help build a more modern, sustainable and resilient Europe.

As Europe battles this invisible enemy, resiliency is the keyword. A wounded Europe is a Union that risks being unable to protect itself from current and future threats to its security. Already, organised crime is taking advantage of the crisis and terrorist groups considering the epidemic as an opportunity to strike a weakened opponent. The EU will need to manage its external borders to prevent the uncontrolled entry of people infected by transmissible pathogens and to protect European citizens from terrorism and crime.

It is for these reasons that EOS and its members urge the European Union to take into account security priorities when revising the MFF proposal.

In particular:

- The Integrated Border Management Fund (comprising Borders and Visa, and Customs) should be maintained at the proposed EUR 9.3 billion. The EU's decentralised agencies in the area of Border Management should receive the proposed allocation of EUR 12.0 billion for their operational activities, for capacity building and harmonisation of procedures.



- The Internal Security Fund should be maintained at the proposed level of EUR 2.5 billion. The fund is a key financial instrument to prevent and combat crime, terrorism and cybercrime. The decentralised agencies in the area of security should receive the proposed EUR 1.1 billion to be able to operate with the necessary efficiency.
- The proposed Digital Europe budget should be increased above the proposed EUR 9.2 billion threshold. Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence represent critical domains to tackle current and future security and safety crises.
- The Horizon Europe budget should be raised to at least €120 billion (in 2018 prices), of which at least 60% should be dedicated to the “Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness” pillar. The program should be refocused by providing a greater weight to crisis management, borders and security topics.
- European Structural and Investment Funds should add Resilience to the five proposed priorities. Resilience to security and safety crises needs to be a key priority for Regional and Cohesion Funds if we are to protect our citizens, infrastructures and economy and to achieve the objective of a sustainable technological strategic autonomy.