

Contribution of the LXXIII COSAC
Warsaw, 8–10 June 2025

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Security

- 1) COSAC emphasises the necessity for Europe to take greater responsibility for its own security and to strengthen European defence capabilities as a complement to NATO's capacities, eliminating critical gaps and fostering a robust European defence industrial base.
- 2) COSAC stresses that, given the dynamic geopolitical situation, transatlantic cooperation remains a cornerstone of security for an integrated Europe.
- 3) COSAC welcomes the European Commission's initiatives aimed at enhancing defence capabilities, including the launch of the ReArm Europe program and development of the White Paper for European Defence – Readiness 2030.
- 4) COSAC asserts that the protection of the EU's land, air, and maritime borders contributes to strengthening the security of the entire Union. COSAC welcomes the recognition of the East Shield and the Baltic Defence Line as flagship EU projects launched to deter and counteract potential threats from the East.
- 5) COSAC underscores the importance of intensifying and improving coordination efforts to safeguard critical infrastructure, in particular in the energy and digital sectors, including submarine cables, as well as of protecting all sectors classified as "risk zones".
- 6) COSAC calls for intensified efforts to counteract hybrid threats, including threats to critical infrastructures, the weaponisation of migration as a destabilisation tool, and for safeguarding the integrity and functionality of the Schengen Area.
- 7) COSAC endorses the development of joint capacities of Member States and the Union in the fields of crisis management, civil protection, and humanitarian assistance, and recognises these areas as fundamental for building the resilience of European society.

Ukraine

- 8) COSAC consistently condemns Russian aggression against Ukraine and urges the international community to enhance support for Ukraine. Joint actions serve as an investment in European security and constitute a crucial step towards reducing the threat of future Russian aggression.
- 9) COSAC supports the conclusion of a just and lasting peace agreement based on the UN Charter and international law that guarantees Ukraine's sovereignty, its territorial integrity within internationally recognised borders, capacity to defend its territory, freedom to choose its alliances, and the opportunity to build its future on democratic principles. COSAC further underscores that adherence to international law is essential for a successful peace process. COSAC asserts that a just and lasting peace cannot

be achieved without the involvement of Ukraine and European countries in the negotiation process.

- 10) COSAC reaffirms that representatives of Russian authorities and all those responsible for crimes committed in Ukraine must be held accountable. COSAC also emphasises the need for further reinforcement of sanctions against Russia and counteracting attempts to evade them.

EU Strategic Agenda for 2024–2029

- 11) COSAC welcomes the priorities of the EU and the strategic guidelines for the institutional cycle 2024–2029, structured around three pillars: a free and democratic Europe, a strong and secure Europe, and a prosperous and competitive Europe.
- 12) COSAC emphasises the importance of protecting and promoting the fundamental values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, both within the EU and internationally.
- 13) COSAC supports efforts to ensure both external and internal security by adapting EU actions to the current geopolitical situation.
- 14) COSAC welcomes with interest the findings of the Draghi Report and the Competitiveness Compass proposed by the European Commission, recognising its potential as a tool to address challenges arising from an unstable global business environment.
- 15) COSAC underscores the vital role of the single market in the development and prosperity of EU Member States and highlights the need to cut red tape and eliminate barriers, particularly by reducing bureaucratic and regulatory burdens.
- 16) COSAC stresses the importance of shaping the EU's energy and climate policy with due regard for social acceptance and with respect for the principle of solidarity.
- 17) COSAC welcomes the concept of the Union of Skills, which aims to ensure high-quality education, training, and lifelong learning as a response to challenges in the field of education and in the labour market.
- 18) COSAC welcomes the AI Continent Action Plan and acknowledges its potential in strengthening the EU's global position. COSAC further highlights the necessity for the EU to foster conditions favourable for research in innovation and new technologies.
- 19) COSAC underscores the necessity of building a competitive, sustainable, and resilient agricultural sector that has access to natural resources, guarantees food security, ensures an adequate standard of living for farmers, their position in supply chains, and the development of rural areas.

EU Multiannual Financial Framework

- 20) COSAC maintains that the EU's financial regulations should align with the scale of challenges it faces. COSAC emphasises the need to enhance the flexibility of the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework to better respond to emergency situations, such as armed conflicts, climate disasters, energy crises, and health threats, while respecting the prerogatives and roles of the institutions as established by the Treaty.

- 21) COSAC acknowledges the need to strike the balance between emerging strategic priorities – such as competitiveness, security, and innovation – and EU’s treaty-based policies, including the Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy. COSAC underscores the importance of equitable development of regions and providing support to rural and less developed areas.
- 22) COSAC considers the idea of an umbrella European Competitiveness Fund merging the existing programmes as envisaged by the Commission, not fit for purpose. COSAC calls for adequate funding for research, development, digital and green transformation, while ensuring simplified access to funds for SMEs.
- 23) COSAC calls for increased citizen and regional involvement in shaping future financial frameworks by reinforcing public consultation mechanisms and fostering local engagement.
- 24) COSAC recognises the need to simplify the procedures for implementing and settlement of EU funds. COSAC supports the proposal to extend expenditure eligibility periods, reduce bureaucracy, and grant greater autonomy to regions in managing resources.

Enlargement of the European Union

- 25) COSAC reaffirms that supporting the EU enlargement remains a geopolitical and strategic priority. Enlargement must be kept as a merit-based, balanced and credible procedure in accordance with the Copenhagen Criteria. COSAC advocates for sustained financial and political support to facilitate the effective integration of enlargement countries into the EU.
- 26) COSAC recognises the progress made by the Western Balkan states, Ukraine, and Moldova in meeting the Copenhagen Criteria and underscores the need for further reforms in areas such as the rule of law, anti-corruption efforts, and judicial independence, respect for human rights, and protection of minority rights. COSAC calls for effective EU support to strengthen assistance for enlargement countries in these areas.
- 27) COSAC stresses the need to enhance EU support for enlargement states in combating organised crime and emphasises the importance of closer cooperation with Eurojust and other EU agencies to effectively address cross-border criminal activities.

Cyber Resilience and Combating Disinformation

- 28) COSAC calls for strengthening crisis management by the prompt adoption of the Cybersecurity Blueprint, the implementation of exercises to test its effectiveness, and the development of additional systems to ensure the secure and efficient functioning of Member States and the coordination between all relevant actors.
- 29) COSAC consistently advocates for enhanced civil-military cooperation in the field of cybersecurity, including closer EU-NATO collaboration. COSAC acknowledges that the exchange of information among Member States is a key pillar of this cooperation.

- 30) COSAC emphasises the importance of improving the capacity of EU institutions to detect, analyse, and expose disinformation, manipulation of information, and interference into democratic processes by third countries. COSAC calls for coordinated efforts among Member States, EU institutions, online platforms, and news media in this area.
- 31) COSAC endorses the European Commission's initiatives to combat disinformation and cyber threats, particularly through projects such as the European Democracy Shield and the Digital Europe Program (2025-2027). COSAC calls for the reinforcement of the early warning and monitoring systems. COSAC further stresses that achieving these objectives requires adequate funding, the development of human resources, and access to effective digital tools.
- 32) COSAC highlights the significance of educational and awareness-raising initiatives to equip EU citizens with the skills necessary to identify and counter disinformation. COSAC stresses the need to enhance digital literacy, foster critical thinking in the cybersphere, and improve citizens' ability to verify information sources effectively.