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Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions – Union support for internal security for the period from 2028 to 2034

(C/2026/5144)

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Reference document:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union support for internal security for the period from 2028 to 2034 COM(2025) 542 – 2025/0542(COD)

I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AMENDMENTS

Amendment 1

Recital 2

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(2) Internal security is a shared endeavour to which the Union institutions, relevant Union agencies and Member States should jointly contribute. To contribute to the development and implementation of an effective and ***genuine*** Security Union, Member States should be provided with adequate financial resources. This Union support will be provided under the horizontal rules of the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security established by Regulation (EU) […].	(2) Internal security is a shared endeavour to which the Union institutions, relevant Union agencies and Member States should jointly contribute. To contribute to the development and implementation of an effective and ***proportionate*** Security Union, Member States should be provided with adequate financial resources. This Union support will be provided under the horizontal rules of the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security established by Regulation (EU) […].

Amendment 2

Recital 3

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(3) This Regulation lays down the objectives of the Union support. In order ***that a high level*** of security ***throughout the Union can be achieved*** in the ***best possible way***, Member States should ensure that their National and Regional Partnership Plans address each of the objectives set out by this Regulation.	(3) This Regulation lays down the objectives of the Union support. In order ***to strengthen an area*** of ***freedom,*** security***, and justice grounded*** in the ***protection of fundamental rights, human dignity and the rule of law***, Member States should ensure that their National and Regional Partnership Plans address each of the objectives set out by this Regulation.

Amendment 3

Recital 6

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
In a rapidly evolving security threat and geopolitical landscape, the Commission defined the common priorities for a safer and more secure Europe in the 'ProtectEU Strategy'[7]. The geopolitical context in Europe has significantly changed, and it has profoundly affected the interconnectedness of the EU's internal and external security. Security threats are increasingly global and complex, stemming from criminals' ability to operate across borders, exploit social and economic disparities, and navigate between the physical and digital worlds. At the same time, new digital technologies and artificial intelligence offer significant opportunities to enhance law enforcement and judicial capabilities and address these evolving threats effectively.[7] Communication COM(2025) 148 final of 1.4.2025 from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy.	In a rapidly evolving security threat and geopolitical landscape, the Commission defined the common priorities for a safer and more secure Europe in the 'ProtectEU Strategy'[7]. The geopolitical context in Europe has significantly changed, and it has profoundly affected the interconnectedness of the EU's internal and external security. Security threats are increasingly global and complex, stemming from criminals' ability to operate across borders, exploit social and economic disparities, and navigate between the physical and digital worlds. ***Addressing these threats effectively requires not only cooperation in enforcement, but a comprehensive preventive approach that includes regulating transnational financial and digital systems and promoting equitable development and robust social protections to reduce the structural conditions in which exploitation and criminal networks flourish.*** At the same time, new digital technologies and artificial intelligence offer significant opportunities to enhance law enforcement and judicial capabilities and address these evolving threats effectively***, provided that their development and use fully respect fundamental rights, data protection standards, and democratic oversight, and are accompanied by appropriate safeguards to mitigate risks related to discriminatory outcomes, algorithmic profiling and disproportionate or unjustified surveillance***.[7] Communication COM(2025) 148 final of 1.4.2025 from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy.

Amendment 4

Recital 7

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(7) The Union support should concentrate on actions for which Union intervention can bring greater added value compared with action by Member States alone. Security has an inherently cross-border dimension and therefore a strong, coordinated Union response is required. Therefore, the Member States National and Regional Partnership Plans should contribute to effectively addressing the challenges identified in the context of the 'ProtectEU Strategy'. In line with the shared priorities identified at Union level to ensure a high level of security in the Union, the Union support should concern measures aimed at addressing the main	(7) The Union support should concentrate on actions for which Union intervention can bring greater added value compared with action by Member States ***and its local and regional authorities*** alone. Security has an inherently cross-border dimension and therefore a strong, coordinated Union response is required. Therefore, the Member States National and Regional Partnership Plans should contribute to effectively addressing the challenges identified in the context of the 'ProtectEU Strategy'. In line with the shared priorities identified at Union level to ensure a high level of security in the Union, the Union support should concern

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
security threats and, in particular, at preventing and combating serious and organised crime, including terrorism, violent extremism, and cybercrime.	measures aimed at addressing the main security threats and, in particular, at preventing and combating serious and organised crime, including terrorism, violent extremism, and cybercrime.

Amendment 5

Recital 8

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(8) The Union support should finance measures of Member States in the field of crime prevention, joint training of staff and police cooperation, as well as judicial cooperation in criminal matters involving Member States' competent authorities and Union agencies and bodies, especially as regards the exchange of information, increased operational cooperation and support for necessary efforts to strengthen capabilities to prevent and combat terrorism and serious and organised crime. The Union support should not cover operating costs and activities related to the essential functions of the Member States concerning the maintenance of law and order and the safeguarding of internal and national security.	(8) The Union support should finance measures of Member States in the field of crime prevention, joint training of staff and police cooperation, ***while including local and regional authorities,*** as well as judicial cooperation in criminal matters involving Member States' competent authorities and Union agencies and bodies, especially as regards the exchange of information, increased operational cooperation and support for necessary efforts to strengthen capabilities to prevent and combat terrorism and serious and organised crime. The Union support should not cover operating costs and activities related to the essential functions of the Member States concerning the maintenance of law and order and the safeguarding of internal and national security.

Reason

Recital 8 excludes local and regional authorities from training that will provide shared knowledge and generate synergies in terms of cooperation and coordination. Including local and regional police in training promoted by the EU will help the EU meet its objective.

Amendment 6

Recital 9

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(9) Security ***is the bedrock upon which all our freedoms*** are ***built*** and ***that*** Member States ability to guarantee security for ***the*** citizens is ***contingent on*** a unified European approach. As set out in the ProtectEU Strategy, security considerations need to be integrated and mainstreamed across all EU legislation, policies and programmes, including EU external action. The Union support under this Regulation should contribute to address these considerations.	(9) Security ***and fundamental rights*** are ***mutually reinforcing*** and ***form the foundation of an open and democratic society.*** Member States**'** ability to guarantee security for ***their*** citizens is ***strengthened by*** a ***coordinated and*** unified European approach. As set out in the ProtectEU Strategy, security considerations need to be integrated and mainstreamed across all EU legislation, policies and programmes, including EU external action. The Union support under this Regulation should contribute to address these considerations.

Amendment 7

Recital 10

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(10) In its conclusions of 26 June 2025[8], the European Council recalled that serious and organised crime, terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism, both online and offline, represent a major threat to European citizens and the security of Member States. The European Council also underlined the threat posed by the criminal infiltration of legal business structures that has a detrimental impact on public finances and the Single Market. The European Council called the Union Institutions and the Member States to mobilise all available resources at national and EU level and to take further action to strengthen law enforcement and judicial cooperation, including on effective access to data for law enforcement purposes and by ensuring information exchange, and through cooperation with third countries.[8] Council conclusions, EUCO 12/25 of 26 June 2025.	(10) In its conclusions of 26 June 2025[8], the European Council recalled that serious and organised crime, terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism, both online and offline, represent a major threat to European citizens and ***communities and*** the security of Member States. The European Council also underlined the threat posed by the criminal infiltration of legal business structures that has a detrimental impact on public finances and the Single Market. The European Council called the Union Institutions and the Member States to mobilise all available resources at ***regional,*** national and EU level and to take further action to strengthen law enforcement and judicial cooperation, including on effective access to data for law enforcement purposes and by ensuring information exchange, and through cooperation with third countries.[8] Council conclusions, EUCO 12/25 of 26 June 2025.

Amendment 8

Recital 11

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(11) To prevent and combat internal security threats, the Union support should strengthen Member States' capabilities to prevent and combat serious and organised crime, terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation, child sexual abuse and exploitation, cybercrime and actions addressing digital and technological security challenges, the resilience of critical infrastructure online threats, security threats in the maritime domain, trafficking in human beings, migrants smuggling, illicit drugs trafficking, illicit arms trafficking, money laundering, asset recovery and financial crime, environmental crime, counterfeiting of means of payment and crimes affecting the Union's financial interests, assisting and protecting victims of crime, protecting public spaces, and addressing CBRN-E related security threats and managing incidents, including through increased cooperation and information exchange between public authorities, relevant Union bodies, offices or agencies, civil society and private partners in different Member States. The Union support should also contribute to Member States' acquisition and implementation of innovative methods and technologies in the field of internal security, in particular those supported by Regulation (EU) […] establishing the European Competitiveness Fund and Regulation (EU) […] establishing the EU Framework Programme for Research. In addition, in a changing global political landscape, the external dimension of the area of	(11) To prevent and combat internal security threats, the Union support should strengthen Member States' capabilities to prevent and combat serious and organised crime, terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation, child sexual abuse and exploitation, ***hate crime and gender-based violence,*** cybercrime and actions addressing digital and technological security challenges, the resilience of critical infrastructure online threats, security threats in the maritime domain, trafficking in human beings, migrants smuggling, illicit drugs trafficking, illicit arms trafficking, money laundering, asset recovery and financial crime, environmental crime, counterfeiting of means of payment and crimes affecting the Union's financial interests, assisting and protecting victims of crime, protecting public spaces, and addressing CBRN-E related security threats and managing incidents, including through increased cooperation and information exchange between public authorities, relevant Union bodies, offices or agencies, civil society and private partners in different Member States. The Union support should also contribute to Member States' acquisition and implementation of innovative methods and technologies in the field of internal security, in particular those supported by Regulation (EU) […] establishing the European Competitiveness Fund and Regulation (EU) […] establishing the EU Framework Programme for Research. In addition, in a changing global political landscape, the

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
freedom, security and justice is of key importance. Therefore, the Union support should also contribute to the strengthening of cooperation and partnership with third countries, serving the interests of internal Union policies.	external dimension of the area of freedom, security and justice is of key importance. Therefore, the Union support should also contribute to the strengthening of cooperation and partnership with third countries, serving the interests of internal Union policies.

Amendment 9

Recital 12

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(12) The Union support should contribute to ensuring consistency, coherence, synergies and complementarities between the Union's internal and external policies, in line with the mainstreaming of security. In that context, the Union support under this Regulation should in particular, contribute to combating and preventing serious and organised crime, including drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, and cross-border criminal smuggling networks. Union support under this Regulation may also include support to the relevant resources of the EU delegations in duly justified cases, and be coordinated between the Member States and the Commission in programming and implementation stages.	(12) The Union support should contribute to ensuring consistency, coherence, synergies and complementarities between the Union's internal and external policies, in line with the mainstreaming of security. In that context, the Union support under this Regulation should in particular, contribute to combating and preventing serious and organised crime, including drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, and cross-border criminal smuggling networks. Union support under this Regulation may also include support to the relevant resources of the EU delegations in duly justified cases, and be coordinated between the Member States***, including local and regional authorities,*** and the Commission in programming and implementation stages. ***Where external security cooperation has direct territorial effects, appropriate coordination with regional and local authorities should be ensured to maintain coherence between Union-level action and local implementation.***

Reason

Effective prevention and the protection of public security require that external security cooperation is coherent with its territorial effects, which is why coordination with regional and local authorities is necessary where Union-level action has direct local impact.

Amendment 10

Recital new 14

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
	Incorporating support for internal security into a financial framework covering several policies, as stipulated in Regulation (EU) 2025/0240 establishing the

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
	European Fund, poses specific risks in terms of the readability of priorities and the traceability of security expenditure, as pointed out by the European Court of Auditors in Opinion No 09/2026. These risks are particularly serious for local and regional authorities, which are on the front line when it comes to internal security and must be able to clearly identify and evaluate the resources available to them.

Reason

In flagging up the risks identified by the European Court of Auditors, the aim is to ensure that the priorities are more readable and the expenditure can genuinely be tracked. This is a prerequisite for enabling local and regional authorities – which are front line actors – to identify, access and evaluate the resources made available to them.

Amendment 11

Recital 15

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(15) There is a need to maximise the impact of Union funding by mobilising, pooling and leveraging public and private financial resources. The Union support should promote a whole of society approach, encouraging the active and meaningful involvement of the European industrial sector, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organisations, in the development and implementation of security policy, where relevant with the involvement of other relevant actors, Union bodies, Union agencies and international organisations in relation to the objectives of the Union support. However, it should be ensured that ***the Union support is not used to delegate*** statutory or public tasks to private actors.	(15) There is a need to maximise the impact of Union funding by mobilising, pooling and leveraging public and private financial resources. The Union support should promote a whole of society approach, encouraging the active and meaningful involvement of the European industrial sector, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organisations, ***and local communities*** in the development and implementation of security policy, where relevant with the involvement of other relevant actors, Union bodies, Union agencies and international organisations in relation to the objectives of the Union support. However, it should be ensured that ***public authorities retain ultimate responsibility and that*** statutory or ***essential*** public tasks ***are not delegated*** to private actors. ***At the same time, it is essential to include local and regional authorities and acknowledge their key role in prevention, early detection and building community trust. Their involvement is essential for the design and implementation of effective security policies.***

Reason

Local and regional authorities play a central role in prevention, early detection and building community trust, but the regulation does not require them to be involved systematically.

Amendment 12

Recital 16

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(16) Europe must protect its security interest ***against*** suppliers ***which could represent a persistent security risk due*** to ***the*** potential interference from third countries ***as***	(16) Europe must protect its security interest ***by ensuring that*** suppliers ***adhere*** to ***robust cybersecurity standards and transparency requirements particularly***

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
well as their cybersecurity practices. It is therefore necessary to reduce the risk of persisting dependency on high-risk suppliers in the internal market, as they could have potentially serious negative impacts on security for users, companies and authorities across the EU and the EU's critical infrastructure in terms of the integrity of data and services as well as the availability of service. This exclusion should be based on a proportionate risk assessment and associated mitigation measures as defined in the Union policies and laws.	***where*** potential interference from third countries ***may pose persistent risks***. It is therefore necessary to reduce the risk of persisting dependency on high-risk suppliers in the internal market, as they could have potentially serious negative impacts on security for users, companies and authorities across the EU and the EU's critical infrastructure in terms of the integrity of data and services as well as the availability of service. This exclusion should be based on a proportionate risk assessment and associated mitigation measures as defined in the Union policies and laws.

Amendment 13

Recital 17

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(17) The Member States may build on the principle of partnership in the implementation of the Union support to ensure continuity in the governance approach.	(17) The Member States may build on the principle of partnership***, subsidiarity, and multi-level governance*** in the implementation of the Union support to ensure continuity in the governance approach.

Reason

As the CoR opinion on ProtectEU emphasises, ensuring the structured involvement of local and regional authorities in the new internal security budget will strengthen the EU's internal security capacity, improve coordination between levels of government and strengthen the impact and legitimacy of EU action.

Amendment 14

Recital 18

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
All actions supported in accordance with the Union support under this Regulation should be implemented in compliance with the rights and principles enshrined in the Union acquis and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and should be in line with the international obligations of the Union and the Member States arising from the international instruments to which they are party.	All actions supported in accordance with the Union support under this Regulation should be implemented in compliance with the rights and principles enshrined in the Union acquis and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and should be in line with the international obligations of the Union and the Member States arising from the international instruments to which they are party. ***This includes ensuring that all measures are subject to transparency, accountability, and oversight mechanisms, and respect the principles of non-discrimination and proportionality.***

Reason

As the CoR opinion on ProtectEU emphasises, ensuring the structured involvement of LRAs in the new internal security budget will strengthen the EU's internal security capacity, improve coordination between levels of government and strengthen the impact and legitimacy of EU action.

Amendment 15

Article 2, paragraph 1

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(1) 'competent authorities' means the Member State authorities responsible for the prevention, detection and investigation of criminal offences, as referred to in Article 87(1) TFEU, including police, customs and other specialised law enforcement services;	(1) 'competent authorities' means the Member State authorities responsible for the prevention, detection and investigation of criminal offences, as referred to in Article 87(1) TFEU, including police, customs and other specialised law enforcement services***, as well as regional or local-authority law enforcement authorities exercising those powers in accordance with the relevant national legislation of the Member States***;

Reason

This amendment stresses that in Member States where regional or sub-national authorities hold police powers recognised by law, these bodies must also fall under the definition of 'competent authorities'. Their inclusion ensures legal certainty, reflects the actual distribution of law enforcement responsibilities within certain national systems, and ensures that all authorities exercising these powers can effectively participate in and benefit from EU internal security measures.

Amendment 16

Article 2, paragraph 8

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(8) 'operational law enforcement cooperation' means the operational cooperation between the authorities of two or more of the Member States referred to in Article 87(3) TFEU or the operation of the competent authorities of one Member State in the territory of another Member State, as referred to in Article 89 TFEU;	(8) 'operational law enforcement cooperation' means the operational cooperation between the authorities of two or more of the Member States referred to in Article 87(3) TFEU or the operation of the competent authorities of one Member State in the territory of another Member State, as referred to in Article 89 TFEU***. Operational law enforcement cooperation may also involve the competent local and regional authorities of the Member States***;

Reason

This amendment clarifies that operational law enforcement cooperation can also involve competent local and regional authorities when they hold police powers under national constitutional or legal frameworks. Including these authorities ensures legal clarity, reflects the actual distribution of law enforcement responsibilities in some Member States and supports more effective and coherent territorial cooperation under Article 87(3) and Article 89 TFEU.

Amendment 17

Article 3, paragraph 1, point (a)

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(a) strengthening the Union's and Member States' capabilities in relation to preventing and combating serious and organised crime, online and offline, including terrorism, violent extremism, cybercrime, child sexual abuse and exploitation, and hybrid threats, as well as in relation to protecting citizens and public spaces from attacks, including through innovative methods and new technologies in the area of internal security;	(a) strengthening the Union's and Member States' capabilities in relation to preventing and combating serious and organised crime, online and offline, including terrorism, violent extremism, cybercrime, child sexual abuse and exploitation, ***hate crime and gender-based violence, financial crime and corruption,*** and hybrid threats, ***including through proportionate preventive and resilience-building measures at national, regional and local level,*** as well as in relation to protecting citizens and public spaces from attacks, including through ***the responsible use of*** innovative methods and new technologies in the area of internal security;

Reason

Effective prevention and the protection of public spaces depend on close involvement of sub-national authorities.

Amendment 18

Article 3, paragraph 1, point (c)

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(c) improving and facilitating the exchange of information between and within competent authorities and relevant Union bodies, offices and agencies and, where appropriate, with third countries, international organisations and private parties;	(c) improving and facilitating the exchange of information between and within competent authorities and relevant Union bodies, offices and agencies and, where appropriate, with third countries, international organisations and private parties ***in a manner that is proportionate, rights-compliant, and evidence driven***;

Reason

Effective prevention and the protection of public spaces depend on close involvement of sub national authorities.

Amendment 19

Article 3, paragraph 1, point (d)

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(d) improving ***and intensifying*** operational law enforcement cooperation, including joint operations, between competent authorities in relation to preventing	(d) improving operational law enforcement cooperation, including joint operations, between competent authorities – ***particularly national police authorities and regional or***

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
and combating serious and organised crime, online and offline, including terrorism, violent extremism, cybercrime, child sexual abuse and exploitation, hybrid threats, as well as in relation to protecting citizens and public spaces from attacks;	***local-authority police authorities with extensive police powers, as well as their participation in joint investigation teams (JIT)*** – in relation to preventing and combating serious and organised crime, online and offline, including terrorism, violent extremism, cybercrime, child sexual abuse and exploitation***, hate crime and gender-based violence, financial crime and corruption***, hybrid threats, as well as in relation to protecting citizens and public spaces from attacks;

Reason

Effective police cooperation within the EU requires all authorities with substantive powers in criminal investigations and law enforcement to be fully integrated into the operational frameworks. In several Member States, regional or sub-national police authorities exercise full or shared competence in criminal investigations and policing. Limiting operational cooperation to state-level bodies does not reflect this reality and could undermine cross-border investigations. This amendment ensures the functional and territorial continuity of police cooperation, and strengthens the operational dimension of Article 87 TFEU and the EU's capacity to prevent and combat serious organised crime.

Amendment 20

Article 3, paragraph 1, a new point (e)

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
	(e) ensuring that competent authorities operating in cross-border regions, including regional or local authorities with extensive police powers, are structurally integrated into police cooperation and information exchange, and into early detection mechanisms involving relevant civilian and local authorities, to prevent territorial inconsistencies that could compromise the security of the Union;

Reason

Local authorities and cross-border regions are critical areas in the EU's internal security architecture. Any lack of continuity in information flows or operational cooperation in these areas can create vulnerabilities, with effects extending beyond the territory concerned and having an impact on the Schengen area as a whole. Both the ProtectEU strategy and the Committee of the Regions stress the need for full territorial integration of security entities to prevent such gaps arising.

Amendment 21

Article 3(1), final paragraph

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
The Union support shall be implemented in a manner fully consistent with the objectives set out in Regulation (EU) […] establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security.	The Union support shall be implemented in a manner fully consistent with the objectives set out in Regulation (EU) […] establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security.

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
	Measures supported under this Regulation shall be designed and implemented with appropriate transparency, accountability and oversight mechanisms, and shall respect the principles of non-discrimination, necessity and proportionality. When implementing these objectives, particular attention shall be paid to the specific challenges of regions at the external borders of the Union, including the outermost regions.

Reason

The outermost regions recognised in Article 349 TFEU, such as the Canary Islands, are located at the EU's external borders and face specific internal security challenges. Therefore, the instrument's objectives need to take into account their particular situation.

Amendment 22

Article 3, paragraph 2

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
2. The Member States shall ensure that the priorities of their National and Regional Partnership Plans include actions to achieve each of the objectives of the Union support under this Regulation, and that the allocation of resources between objectives is proportionate to the identified challenges and needs.	2. The Member States shall ensure that the priorities of their National and Regional Partnership Plans include actions to achieve each of the objectives of the Union support under this Regulation, and that the allocation of resources between objectives is proportionate to the identified challenges and needs. ***In addition, the competent local and regional authorities and relevant civil society organisations, in particular those working on victim support, anti-discrimination, youth work, community mediation and prevention of radicalisation, and operating in full respect of fundamental rights, non-discrimination and democratic values shall be consulted and actively involved in the planning, coordination and operational implementation of the actions supported under this regulation, including in the identification of needs and priorities at territorial level.***

Reason

Consulting the competent local and regional authorities when drawing up the national and regional partnership plans ensures that the planning respects the principle of partnership and multilevel governance. The involvement of local and regional authorities makes needs assessments more accurate, improves the proportional allocation of resources and strengthens the effectiveness and ownership of the actions supported under the regulation.

Amendment 23

Article 4, new point 8

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
	8. Competent regional or local authorities with extended police powers may be eligible, in line with national arrangements, to act as beneficiaries of Union funding under this regulation, both under shared and direct management.

Reason

Equal access to EU funding is essential to ensure consistent development of operational capacity across the EU. Where regional or local authorities are directly responsible for internal security tasks, excluding them from eligibility may lead to inefficiencies, delays and uneven implementation. The Committee of the Regions has stressed the need for direct access for regional authorities to EU financial instruments in the field of security.

Amendment 24

Article 4, new point 9

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
	Supporting integrated local and regional initiatives that address the security implications of climate-related risks and environmental degradation, where these directly affect the safety, social cohesion and resilience of local communities, in particular in rural, mountainous and climate-vulnerable areas.

Reason

Climate-related risks and environmental degradation can affect the safety, social cohesion and resilience of local communities, in particular in rural, mountainous and climate-vulnerable areas. Supporting targeted local and regional projects under the internal security instrument can strengthen prevention, risk management and community resilience.

II. **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS (COR)

General conclusion and legal framework

1. points out that, in accordance with Article 3(2) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), the Union is to offer its citizens an area of freedom, security and justice;

2. also points out that, in accordance with Article 4(2) TEU, Member States are still solely responsible for national security, while internal security is a shared competence within which the EU can support, coordinate and supplement the actions of the Member States, while respecting the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality set out in Article 5 TEU;

3. notes that the significant increase in the financial resources proposed for supporting internal security reflects the fact that the European Commission recognises this policy as a priority; at the same time, it should be noted that the success of these efforts will greatly depend on the governance and implementation arrangements adopted, particularly the extent to which they promote holistic, preventive, and community-based approaches, involving local and regional authorities and relevant stakeholders;

4. emphasises that, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/794 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) ([1]), competent authorities also include regional or sub-national law enforcement authorities that perform the functions of preventing, detecting and investigating criminal offences in accordance with the national law of the relevant Member State and in line with the definition set out in Article 2 of that regulation;

([1]) Regulation (EU) 2016/794 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and replacing and repealing Council Decisions 2009/371/JHA, 2009/934/JHA, 2009/935/JHA, 2009/936/JHA and 2009/968/JHA (OJ L 135, 24.5.2016, p. 53, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/794/oj).

Risk of centralisation and governance issues

5. points out that the proposal for a regulation refers frequently to the general governance arrangements for the partnership plans without specifying the specific conditions under which local and regional authorities are to be involved, which goes against the practices established under cohesion policy and the partnership principle;

6. welcomes the support for the administrative approach to crime set out by the Commission in the internal security strategy and emphasises the key role played by local authorities in implementing prevention measures and directly combating criminal infiltration at local level;

7. expresses its concern about the increasing involvement of minors in certain aspects of organised crime, and flags up the pivotal role of local and regional authorities in prevention policies, particularly in the fields of education, youth and social cohesion;

8. considers that organised crime is increasingly exploiting logistical vulnerabilities in certain critical infrastructure, particularly ports and logistics platforms; calls for structured partnerships to be developed between public authorities, European agencies, local and regional authorities and private port operators with a view to preventing the danger of criminal infiltration and corruption in logistics chains;

9. stresses that local and regional authorities have crucial competences when it comes to local and municipal police, emergency services and civil protection services, critical infrastructure management, the security of public spaces and the continuity of essential services;

10. stresses the fact that the prevention of radicalisation, violent extremism and undue influence by hostile actors requires combining effective, proportionate law enforcement with rights-based and integrated local policies implemented by local and regional authorities, in cooperation with relevant civil society organisations operating in full respect of fundamental rights, non-discrimination and democratic values, in the fields of community safety and prevention, education, social inclusion, youth, intercultural dialogue and urban planning;

11. welcomes the contributions from the European agencies and stresses that for the future internal security instrument to be effective, there needs to be structured cooperation between the European agencies and local and regional authorities. Its success will also depend on whether the local and regional players are formally integrated into the governance and implementation of the policies, in line with the other financial instruments, particularly the Cohesion Fund and cohesion policy;

Policy recommendations

12. considers it essential for the programming and allocation of resources under the future instrument for providing support for internal security to be based on a territorial impact assessment that makes it possible to anticipate the differing impacts of the planned measures and to ensure that the funding priorities properly match the security needs specific to each region; otherwise there is a risk of creating a disconnect between the programming priorities and the operational realities on the ground, while ensuring that these assessments also take into account the specific security challenges and administrative capacities of smaller municipalities, rural territories and regions with limited administrative resources;

13. stresses the need for local and regional authorities to be fully recognised as strategic players in the EU's internal security given the operational responsibilities that they have and the fact that their role cannot be reduced to that of mere beneficiaries of EU funding, as they are closest to communities, possess detailed knowledge of local social and territorial dynamics, and play a key role in preventive and community-based measures;

14. believes that for the future internal security support instrument to be effective, territorial and socio-economic disparities would need to be taken into account, particularly in cross-border regions and regions located at the EU's external borders, including the outermost regions; believes that a standardised allocation of resources would be likely to undermine the impact of the security policies, exacerbate existing social and territorial inequalities, and risk leaving vulnerable communities underserved, and calls for the investment priorities to be based on a place-based risk assessment at local and regional level that promotes territorial and social cohesion and ensures equitable access to support across all regions;

15. calls for the financial planning of Union support for internal security to guarantee clear, discrete traceability of the resources allocated to internal security measures and the way in which these resources are divided at local and regional level, particularly in the national and regional partnership plans provided for by the framework regulation; accordingly, calls on the Commission to make provision in the implementing regulations and reporting templates for specific indicators for identifying internal security expenditure and the way in which this expenditure is divided between national, regional and local levels, and to facilitate the assessment of this expenditure by the relevant authorities and the general public;

16. urges European Commission to make it mandatory for local and regional authorities to be truly and meaningfully involved in developing and implementing the national and regional partnership plans in relation to internal security, and for the approval of the national plans to be made conditional on the actual implementation of formal coordination with local and regional authorities, in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity, partnership and multilevel governance; considers that, under those conditions, the Commission should not approve national plans that fail to ensure this coordination;

17. proposes that its institutional role in monitoring the future instrument be strengthened by providing for the European Commission to formally involve the European Committee of the Regions, as well as other relevant local and regional actors such as civil society organisations, in the evaluation of the implementation of the funds in order to consolidate democratic accountability, improve budget implementation and ensure that the realities on the ground are better taken into account;

18. calls for the introduction of a guaranteed minimum proportion of the national allocations to be earmarked for local and regional authorities; considers that such a guarantee is a prerequisite for preventing any de facto re-centralisation of funding;

19. warns of the potentially unequal effects of competitive funding mechanisms, which are likely to put communities with more limited administrative capacity at a disadvantage; calls for equitable access to funding to be ensured, in particular through simplified arrangements, increased technical support and funding tailored to territorial diversity, including dedicated capacity-building measures and technical assistance for local and regional authorities with limited administrative resources; further calls for increased and more accessible funding for civil society organisations and community-based actors working on the ground in the fields of crime prevention, social inclusion, youth engagement, victim support and community resilience;

20. notes with concern that in many territories, persistent youth outmigration, brain and skills drain and rapid demographic ageing undermine social cohesion and economic resilience; stresses that such trends can weaken everyday trust in institutions in communities of origin and, where young people face exclusion, precariousness or lack of prospects, may increase susceptibility to extremist narratives, disinformation and criminal exploitation; calls for the Union support for internal security to facilitate local and regional projects that strengthen young people's prospects in their home regions – including skills development, quality jobs, meaningful community participation, youth work, inclusive services and safe public spaces – as part of a preventive, non-discriminatory approach to internal security and democratic resilience;

21. stresses the importance of evidence-based policymaking in the field of internal security; calls on the Union to strengthen investment in interdisciplinary and locally grounded research on the drivers of insecurity, organised crime, radicalisation and violence; emphasises the need for disaggregated data, developed in full compliance with fundamental rights, in order to better understand the impacts of security challenges on diverse communities and to support effective, proportionate and preventive policy responses;

22. urges Member States to transpose and fully implement the Directive to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence and to implement the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and to report on the fight against gender-based violence in the Member States National and Regional Partnership Plans;

23. stresses that internal security does not depend only on law enforcement and judicial cooperation, but also on strong community cohesion, respect for cultural and linguistic diversity and a shared sense of belonging; underlines that local and regional authorities, rooted in their territories and identities, are key actors in preventing polarisation, social fragmentation and the spread of hostile and extremist narratives, including through education, dialogue and locally grounded communication;

24. recognises that climate change and environmental degradation can exacerbate security risks for local communities, particularly in rural, mountainous and climate-vulnerable areas; stresses that in such territories, environmental pressures can directly affect the safety and resilience of communities, and that internal security policies should enable local and regional authorities to design integrated responses that protect human life and safeguard the natural heritage on which community resilience depends, while ensuring full respect for EU environmental and nature protection law.

Brussels, 1 July 2026.

The President
of the European Committee of the Regions
Kata TÜTTŐ