Strategic objectives

For the European security sector, ASD advocates for the following strategic objectives:

Ensure technological sovereignty in security

Technology alone cannot provide security, but it is an indispensable enabler for security. Industry develops the relevant technologies and translates them into security solutions for commercial and public end-users. Certain technologies are so critical for the functioning and protection of our societies, economies and institutions that dependence on non-European suppliers can become by itself a security risk. Therefore, it should be a priority for Europe to sustain an industrial and technological base capable of developing trustworthy high-end solutions in sensitive security areas, such as the protection of critical infrastructures or cyber.

Create a genuine European security market

Both the private and the public security market in Europe are highly fragmented at the customer and the regulatory level. Moreover, commercial customers tend to limit investments in security to what is strictly necessary, whereas public customers are often legally bound to purchase at the lowest price and buy off-the-shelf to satisfy their immediate needs.
Move towards a proactive approach

Security solutions have traditionally been developed ex-post, i.e. only as a reaction after unexpected incidents occurred. Given the constantly evolving nature of security threats and the increasingly high pace of technological innovation, it is urgent to switch to a much more proactive and forward-looking approach. Security entails the systematic screening of emerging technologies for possible security implications, targeted upfront investments in critical technology areas and infrastructures, and a long-term capability planning process for end-users.

Mainstream the industrial dimension in EU policies

Security is one of the key policy priorities of the EU. At the same time, industry is an indispensable provider of the technological solutions that are necessary to tackle modern security threats. There is an urgent need to translate this link into a European security industrial strategy that promotes competitiveness, innovation and long-term technological sovereignty. The Security Union should therefore include an industrial dimension and ensure that all security-related EU funding instruments contribute to strengthening the relevant industrial and technological capabilities in Europe.