



# A comprehensive approach to security

## The Security Policy Strategy of Switzerland 2026 – In brief

Every day, acts of war are occurring across the globe, also in Europe. Since attacking Ukraine in February 2022, Russia has redoubled its efforts to destabilise European states through cyberattacks, disinformation and other means. The international order is weakened and relations between major powers are strained.

This poses a threat to the security and stability of the European continent, including Switzerland.

How can we enhance our security?

Thereby, the Federal Council has developed a strategy for comprehensive security. The strategy incorporates all the stakeholders whose resources are relevant to Switzerland's security, including the federal government, the cantons, the communes, civil society, industry and academia. This allows everyone to play their part in strengthening the security of the country.



## Threats and dangers

Cyberattacks on our power, transport or communications infrastructure, disinformation on our mobile phones and organised crime can all pose a threat to security. These threats can come from within or outside Switzerland and can be perpetrated by terrorist groups, radicalised individuals, foreign states or actors with government links. They affect our daily lives, often without us realising.

Democratic societies in Europe are deliberately being destabilised and polarised through disinformation, espionage, sabotage, covert military operations, economic pressure and blackmail.

In regions such as the Middle East and Ukraine, countries are no longer negotiating with each other in accordance with the rule of law. Instead, they are increasingly defending their interests by using heavy-handed tactics, including the use of force.

Russia and China have clear political and territorial objectives. Similarly, the United States is pursuing foreign, security and economic policy that is increasingly driven by its own interests, employing various tactics to this end. Smaller, less powerful states are being left behind.

Alongside these threats are the growing dangers posed by climate change and the possibility of further pandemics.

Against this background, what is the Federal Council doing to enhance Switzerland's security?



The Federal Council has opted for a **comprehensive security approach** that involves the federal government, the cantons, the communes, industry, academia and civil society.

The Security Policy Strategy of Switzerland 2026 focuses on three **strategic directions** with ten specific objectives:

Strategic direction 1

## Strengthen Resilience

### Objectives

1. Sharpened awareness
2. Strengthened early detection and anticipation
3. Sound crisis management
4. Crisis-proof infrastructures
5. Economic and technological security
6. Effective contributions to stability and the rule of law

Strategic direction 2

## Improve capabilities for resistance and protection

### Objectives

7. Robust domestic security
8. Efficient civil protection for threats and dangers

Strategic direction 3

## Strengthen defence capabilities

### Objectives

9. Armed forces ready for defence
10. Defence in cooperation

Fig. 1: The three strategic directions and ten objectives of the security policy strategy 2026.



## Strategic direction 1: **Strengthen resilience**

The Federal Council aims to reduce critical dependencies and to minimise the impact of attacks or attempts to exert pressure on Switzerland. To this end it has defined the following objectives:

**1: Sharpened awareness:** Switzerland's population and institutions are aware of the heightened threat and are prepared to protect and defend the country by any means available. Influence activities and disinformation are ineffective.

**2: Strengthened early detection and anticipation:** The federal government identifies threats and dangers in good time and takes appropriate measures. The early identification of crises is a collaborative effort involving the cantons, industry and academia.

**3: Sound crisis management:** The federal government has appropriate and flexible structures and processes in place for dealing with crises.

**4: Crisis-proof infrastructures:** Critical infrastructures are resistant to disruption and attack, with a high level of protection against cyberattacks and strong information security.

**5: Economic and technological security:** A secure supply of critical goods, services and technologies is in place. The economy and academia are protected against hostile activity.



## **6: Effective contributions to stability and the rule of law:**

Switzerland promotes European security through greater cooperation with neighbouring countries, the EU and NATO. It is committed to a peaceful and just international order, human rights and international law.

### **Strategic direction 2: Improve capabilities for resistance and protection**

The Federal Council aims to **protect** the population more effectively against threats and dangers, and improve deterrence. Switzerland must be better able to **deter** attacks and mitigate their impact. The specific objectives to this end include:

**7: Robust domestic security:** Switzerland is equipped to deal with cyberattacks, espionage, terrorism, violent extremism and crime. It can recognise and keep organised crime in check. The public sector, the economy, academia and civil society are protected against infiltration by hostile intelligence services.

**8: Efficient civil protection for threats and dangers:** The civil protection network – civil defence organisations, the police, the fire services, the public health services and technical services – can respond to technological, social and natural hazards and health risks, and is prepared for hybrid attacks and armed conflict.



### Strategic direction 3: **Strengthen defence capabilities**

Switzerland is able to defend itself. At the same time, it should explore the possibility of cooperation with partners if necessary. To this end, the Federal Council has set out the following objectives:

**9: Armed Forces ready for defence:** The Armed Forces have the appropriate equipment and resources to deter a potential adversary and defend Switzerland for as long as possible. For this purpose, it cooperates with other armed forces and provides its partners with services in return.

**10: Defence in cooperation :** In the event of an armed attack, Switzerland is capable of defending itself in cooperation with its partners.

**Interoperability:** The ability to work together is crucial to cooperating with partners, both in peacebuilding and defence. This requires standards in training, equipment, systems and processes, as well as joint exercises and operations.



## Measures

The Federal Council seeks to achieve these goals by...

- ...identifying and raising awareness of influence activities and disinformation,
- ...preventing radicalisation and extremism,
- ...strengthening national economic supply and reinforcing exports controls, sanctions and investment screening,
- ...enhancing the cyber capabilities of public authorities and businesses,
- ...reducing dependencies on critical technologies, raw materials, energy supply and goods,
- ...improving the protection of critical infrastructures against attack,
- ...providing the Federal Intelligence Service with the necessary statutory basis for combating espionage and terrorism more effectively,
- ...protecting academic research from hostile activity and strengthening cooperation in security-relevant technologies,
- ...ensuring that the Armed Forces and civil protection organisations have adequate human resources,
- ...accelerating and simplifying procurement,
- ...contributing to security in Europe because threats are transnational.

These are just some of the measures that have been defined to achieve the Federal Council's ten objectives.



## Implementation

The forty measures of the strategy will be implemented primarily by the relevant departments. To ensure comprehensive security, the strategy involves the cantons, academia, civil society and private entities. The State Secretariat for Security Policy (SEPOS) has been tasked with coordinating this work.

The security policy strategy is in consultation until 31 March 2026, after which it will be definitively adopted by the Federal Council.

### **Contact for enquiries and further information:**

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