



Private Security Summit 'Private Security at the Crossroad of the EU's Future'

June 12, 2008 - CoESS (Confederation of European Security Services)

Concluding remarks by Marc PISSENS President of CoESS

- Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for an interesting day: the speeches, interventions, debates and talks, both during the official sessions and the informal moments, have been highly interesting and exciting.
- Today provided first of all the occasion to get to know each other more and better. In some way or another, private security is a priority, a daily business or an interest to all of us, whatever our background our perspective. If we advocate a global and integrated approach towards private security, this must also pass through personal contacts.
- Throughout the day, a few important elements have been highlighted. Let me shortly summarize them. I cannot pretend that we have settled security and private security for the years to come; but I am convinced that we took again a small but fundamental step forward.

- It is clear that our role calls for a framework. We are not just and only any commercial service provider. We act as commercial entities, but we must fulfil an increasing public role. Because of this tension between commercial principles and a public responsibility, the industry - and this is not always easy to understand for outsiders - calls for such a framework. Only with clear guidelines on our role, our rights and obligations, our possibilities and limits, can we contribute to the much needed prevention of risks and threats. In order to prevent providers with wrong intentions entering into the market, in order to create the necessary guarantee against abuse, in order to bring along the right balance between prevention and protection and the freedom of every citizen.
- Once the right framework established and an integrated and global approach defined, we can come do what we want and have to do as private security providers. Quality is here the key word. Quality which becomes possible because the framework is clear and we know what society expects from us. Quality which is obviously the solution for the guarantees and the transparency I mentioned. Quality in order to create sound and good working conditions for our staff (I referred this morning to their fundamental contribution). Quality in order to cooperate with our customers. Quality to protect the citizen.
- Within CoESS, we have always strived for quality. It has been the driving force in our day-to-day work and the many results this work brought along. Through many investments, through constant training of our personnel, through own audits and evaluation, through corrective measures within our companies.
- We strongly believe we play our role in the best possible way. That is at least what our national member federations and their companies strive for.

- We cannot do this alone. We need the decision makers to create the right conditions and to respect our role. We are part of the security chain, we carry our responsibility. Together with the needed academic world, the researchers, the technology providers and the customers.
- We therefore call upon the EU institutions for a full recognition of our rights and obligations. Of our capacities and our limits. As CoESS we will continue to give the necessary input, expertise, opinion and support. If ALL players would do the same, I am confident security in Europe will be on the right track.
- Once again thank you all for your presence today. Again we are grateful to CEPS, our sponsors and INTEREL. I suggest we meet next year to take stock of progress and to further elaborate, together, the future.