

Joint declaration of CoESS and Euro-FIET on the future enlargement of the European Union to include the Central and Eastern European Countries

1. The social partners in the European private security industry, CoESS (employers) and Euro-FIET (trade unions) support all the efforts made to enlarge the European Union by including the Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC). They believe that this new enlargement is essential to guarantee peace, democracy and economic and social development in Europe.
2. With regard to the private security sector, CoESS and Euro-FIET believe that preparatory work prior to the enlargement of the European Union should make it possible to avoid certain economic, political and social risks which may arise when workers and businesses accustomed to very different social and regulatory circumstances are drawn into competition with the other European Union countries.
3. Having analysed the private security sector in the CEEC, CoESS and Euro-FIET believe that a number of measures should be taken, by the social partners in these countries among others, to bring the sector closer to the situation found in Member States of the European Union.
4. Among these measures, CoESS and Euro-FIET believe that as a matter of urgency:
 - the sector should be organised, supporting the establishment of free and representative organisations for the social partners (employers and trade unions) with mutual recognition national, regional and local (company) level;
 - these organisations should be encouraged to take part in the European social partners' organisations (CoESS and Euro-FIET) and become involved as much as possible in the work of the European social dialogue;
 - a constructive social dialogue should be encouraged between these organisations at every level.

5. The social partners in the CEEC should also undertake to develop their social dialogue with a view to reaching concrete agreements. CoESS and Euro-FIET believe that this social dialogue should make it possible, as a matter of priority, to:
 - define the parameters of healthy competition (respect for regulations, introduction of minimum standards of training, etc.)
 - work with the public authorities to develop rules and standards for licences and vocational training to provide a framework for the sector's activities;
 - develop professional standards, and improve both working conditions and the image of the sector.
6. Given the challenges which lie ahead for the social partners in the CEEC, CoESS and Euro-FIET believe that those security companies based within the European Union which are investing in the CEEC market also have important responsibilities. They must be encouraged by the social partners to develop good social conditions for workers in their subsidiaries in these countries, and to improve the professionalisation.
7. CoESS and Euro-FIET declare that they are ready and willing to assume their share of the responsibility, and they undertake to organise regular monitoring of the private security sector in the CEEC, to develop their contacts with the CEEC social partners and to give these partners their support, assistance and aid to enable them to rise to the challenges posed by the future enlargement of the European Union.

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