



Appeal of social partners in the security sector of the Baltic States to the National Administrations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania responsible for private security issues.

Social dialogue is one of the fundamental cornerstones of the socio-economic organisation of the European Union, ensuring a balance between the interests of employers and employees as well as equal involvement for social partners in resolution of issues related to sectoral development. It is important that all corresponding political decisions made in society take into account the common interests of social partners and that a constant social dialogue between the social partners themselves as well as between the partners and the state is developed.

In the joint declaration signed by CoESS and UNI-Europa (formerly Euro-FIET) on the enlargement of the European Union, these organisations already stated that it was a matter of urgency that

- a) 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,
- b) these organisations should be encouraged to take part in the European social partners' organisations and become involved as much as possible in the work of the European social dialogue and that
- c) a constructive social dialogue should be encouraged between these organisations at every level.

Social Dialogue is a key element of the *acquis communautaire* and it is therefore an obligation of the 25 current Member States to promote it. We believe that it is the responsibility of the national administrations of the Baltic States to ensure that no obstacles are introduced to the development of such social dialogue, in particular, the establishment of free and representative organisations.

The Round Table on Social Dialogue in the private security sector of the Baltic states, held in Riga on 22 March 2006, organised by the TAIEX office of the European Commission in co-operation with CoESS and UNI-Europa has been an opportunity to exchange our respective experiences.

A certain concern exists in relation to the situation in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. We consider that the private security sector lacks a consistent interlocutor from the state for constructive discussion of issues pertaining to the development of private security services and the role of the private security sector in domestic security. As the Joint declaration by CoESS and UNI-Europa "Towards a European Model of Private Security" states:

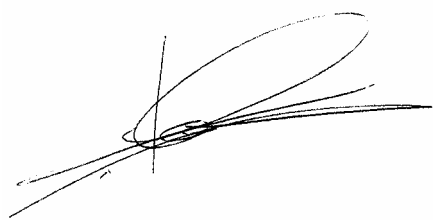
- a) if strict regulations govern how the activities of private security companies are established and exercised, all companies in this sector should conform to these regulations, and
- b) it is the responsibility of employers and employees to work together to improve them in every country where these regulations are non-existent or underdeveloped.

CoESS and UNI-Europa have also clearly stated their commitment through their social dialogue to improve general working conditions in Europe in order to narrow the existing gaps and to raise all European countries to an acceptable level of social environment, to strengthen the social dialogue and the co-operation with the responsible authorities and to raise awareness among private security companies regarding the need to strive for quality and professionalism. We specifically commit to these objectives in the Baltic States.

The role of the private security sector in ensuring domestic security in modern society has grown on a constant basis. As a consequence, state authorities responsible for the internal security should clearly define the role of private security services in maintaining internal security and apply strategies for developing co-operation.

Based on the above, we call on the competent authorities of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to turn attention toward concerns brought forth above and take steps to specify personal responsibility in structures dealing with domestic security policy planning in addressing issues of the security sector. Only through a continuing professional social dialogue will it be possible to achieve the level of co-operation expected by society in the field of security.

Signed in Riga, 22 March 2006

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For CoESS
Marc Pissens
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'B' and 'T' followed by a long diagonal stroke.

For UNI-Europa
Bernadette Tesch-Ségol
Regional Secretary