

DECLARATION
of
the participants in the First National Meeting,
“Private Security Business in the Republic of Bulgaria”
Sofia, 1 December 2005

WE, 117 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECTOR OF PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL SECURITY SERVICES AND PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIRST NATIONAL MEETING ON THE PRIVATE SECURITY BUSINESS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA,

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

- § We are concerned and worried of the situation of security market, which features an existing “gray sector”, lack of balance between the quality of services and their prices, corruptive practices in tender procedures;
- § We are confident that the joint and coordinated efforts of the loyal legal entities and private individuals engaged with the sector are an important requisite for the prompt solution of the existing problems and for the establishment of good standing of Guards;
- § We are sure that partnership between the public and private sector is the only way to guarantee the future development of private industrial security services to the society’s best interest.

WE STAND FOR ALL ENDEAVOURS AIMING AT:

- § Creating favourable conditions for speedy economic growth in our home country;
- § Integrating the Republic of Bulgaria into united Europe with maximum protection of national interests;
- § Ensuring the peace and security of Bulgarian and foreign private individuals and legal entities on the territory of the country;
- § Increasing the capabilities and efficiency of the crime prevention system;
- § Establishing a more favourable business environment for the private industrial companies that have proven to be loyal to their clients, the State and their employees;
- § Restricting the “gray economy”, unfair competition, corruption and the actions of disloyal economic operators.

WE INSIST ON:

1. The improvement of general rules in the field of security business with precise definition and discrimination of spheres of competence, tasks and responsibilities of public and private subjects engaged in this business.
 - 1.1. The changes, amendments and modifications in the Law on Private Security Business.

- 1.2. The regulation of private investigation services.
 - 1.3. The improvement of all bylaws in the security sector that ignore the private services in industrial security or prevent their development to the society's best interest and the normal course of business of conscientious subjects.
 - 1.4. The preferential treatment of legal entities and private individuals who have proven to be loyal to their clients and the State.
2. The impartial analysis of the condition on the market of private security services and the effective measures to oppose unfair competition, disloyal subjects and low quality of services.
 - 2.1. The professional research of trends in the security business.
 - 2.2. The accurate and summarized statistical data about the sector and the participants on the market on the basis of correct data obtained from governmental institutions.
 - 2.3. The coordination in the actions of the National Social Security Institute, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Commission for Protection of Competition, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, and the Commission for Protection of Consumers to oppose unfair competition and restrict the "gray sector".
 3. The achievement of effective interaction between the private security sector and the divisions of the Ministry of Home Affairs at national, regional and local level to guarantee professional performance, morality and high quality of services, to stabilize the positive image of private companies as a part of the preventive system against terrorism and crime.
 - 3.1. The program for development of private security services and the efficient use of security companies as an asset in the restriction of offences.
 - 3.2. The promotion of the quality requirements and criteria in the security sector, the achievements and good practices in the interaction between the Police and private companies.
 - 3.3. The mechanism for coordination and joint actions between the regional police departments and private security companies when there is a threat of terrorist attacks, need of enclosures and investigations, mass events and others, including by joining resources in times and places of crisis.
 - 3.4. The larger role of the Advisory Committee on issues related to the private security business in order to establish a stable and actual partnership between the police divisions and the legitimate private security companies, their unions respectively.
 4. The balance between the quality of services and their prices, the qualification and remuneration of the personnel.
 - 4.1. The change in the attitude of the business circles towards the significance and necessity of private security services; to achieve such balance, a cooperation from the employers' organizations and the Ministry of Home Affairs is needed.
 - 4.2. The implementation of new requirements on the education of prospective guards in compliance with the governmental educational requirements and European regulations.
 - 4.3. The absolute transparency of tender assignment procedures.
 5. The impartial, professional and correct information made available to the public with respect to the condition on the market of private security services and the behaviour of the subjects engaged with this sector.

WE BELIEVE THAT:

§ The problems existing in the private security sector are a matter of common knowledge but the need of solving them is being underestimated;

- § The constant and constructive dialogue and cooperation between all public and private subjects related to the security business is the only way to ensure its progress in the future;
- § The topic of the day is the integration of the existing associations in the sector in order to effectively protect the lawful and justified interests of the private sector and to take an active part in the development of the European model of private security services;

WE, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRIVATE SECURITY BUSINESS THAT GIVES EMPLOYMENT TO DOZENS AND THOUSANDS PEOPLE, ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE MASS MEDIA WILL STAND UP FOR THE PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL SECURITY COMPANIES IN THEIR DIFFICULT PATH.

**THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT IS A CHALLENGE FOR US BUT
TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!**

On behalf of the participants in the First National Meeting of Private Security Business in the Republic of Bulgaria held on 1 December 2005 in Boyana Residence.