Joint Statement

On a future EU Directive for the Resilience of Critical Entities

With this Joint Statement, the European Sectoral Social Partners in the Private Security Sector - the Confederation of European Security Services (CoESS) and UNI Europa - call on European co-legislators to agree on important quality control and social provisions for security services as part of the future EU Directive on the Resilience of Critical Entities. This would be a triple-win – for Critical Infrastructure and its resilience, security companies and workers.

Security companies and workers are an integral part in the security chain of Critical Infrastructure (CI).

Companies protecting assets that are of essential nature for the functioning of our economies and societies must therefore adhere to high quality criteria in terms of training, qualification and working conditions of workers. This can be ensured through quality control processes and social provisions in the procurement and contract management of security companies. Recognised industry Standards, such as EN17483-1 for security services protecting CI, can facilitate this process and help operators of CI identify adequate service providers, because certified companies must comply with relevant quality requirements. These requirements are a triple-win for Critical Infrastructure, security companies and workers.

CoESS and UNI Europa welcome that the Report of the European Parliament proposes important improvements to the original European Commission proposal in this regard. With regret, we notice that these improvements do not feature in the general approach found in European Council.

The European social partners in the Private Security Sector therefore call on EU co-legislators to close this gap and take over the following amendments of the Parliament during inter-institutional negotiations:

- ***European Parliament Report Amendment 67*:** In Article 11.1(e), this amendment improves ***quality and compliance control of private security services*** protecting CI. It is in line with recommendations of the European Parliament Report of the Special Committee on Terrorism.
- ***European Parliament Report Amendment 76:*** this amendment recognises the added value of existing European Standards for the resilience of Critical Entities by establishing a new Article 13a on Standards. This provision was already recommended by the European Parliament Report of the Special Committee on Terrorism. We stress that relevant European or internationally accepted standards exist ***(ISO/IEC 27000:2018; ISO 28000:2007; EN16082:2011; EN16747:2015; EN17483-1)*** that can serve enhanced protection of critical entities and help their operators comply with the provisions of the CER Directive.

You can find more information on our reasoning in a more detailed position paper from CoESS here, and CoESS' evaluation of the Parliament Report here.

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