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With the support of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union

Third European Summit on Private Security

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Press release

Brussels, December 13, 2010 – Top European officials joined representatives of the private security services industry in Brussels, Belgium, on Friday, December 10, 2010 to discuss how public-private security partnerships can be strengthened to adequately respond to new security threats and challenges and underlined the need for an efficient and up-to-date EU-wide security policy.

The Third European Summit on Private Security, organised by CoESS and APEG-BVBO, brought together relevant stakeholders of the private security services sector, including representatives from Europe's 60,000 private security service providers and officials from the European Commission, the Belgian Presidency of the EU, Europol, the Belgian Ministry of the Interior, customs and police.

Speaking at the Summit, taking place under the auspices of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union, Marc Pissens, President of CoESS, stated that "No one should doubt that security in general and private security in particular have become focal points in the European Union and in wider Europe."

CoESS (Confederation of European Security Services) is the European umbrella organisation for 30 national private security companies' associations. APEG-BVBO (Association Professionnelle des Entreprises de Gardiennage – Beroepsvereniging van Bewakingsondernemingen) is the Belgian Private Security Association and the sole representative employers' federation for the Belgian private security industry.

"Private security has become a complement to public security, helping guard Europe's citizens, cities, transport and (critical) infrastructure," Marc Pissens declared. "It's essential to have seamless delivery of integrated services without compromise on quality."

The Summit took place as the European Commission is drawing up its Internal Security Strategy for the European Union, one of the issues topping the conference agenda and an important policy milestone as Belgium wraps up its EU Presidency this month. Belgian Federal Minister of the Interior, Annemie Turtelboom, delivered the Summit's keynote speech and reflected on the growing importance of public-private cooperation to safeguard the protection of Europe and its citizens.

Her views were seconded by Aimé Lyagre, President of APEG-BVBO, who confirmed that both public and private customers are becoming increasingly demanding in their security needs and requests. "Today, they expect an integrated, custom-made, flexible and high-quality service," he added. "The private security sector has evolved dramatically over the



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last decades. Any legislative framework, be it at national or at European level, must develop at the same pace to accommodate an effective security strategy moving forward.”

The afternoon debate among key Belgian and European security actors reiterated that increased cooperation between public and private security stakeholders is vital for tomorrow’s security solutions. The idea of creating a “think tank” to address this particular challenge was mooted.

In his message to the Summit, Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, underlined that reconciling the fundamental freedoms and integrity of European citizens on the one hand and their security on the other is a priority concern for the European Council for the coming years. To achieve this goal, the Council has encouraged the Union’s Institutions to hold an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society.

The Summit saw the launch of the third joint White Book entitled ‘Private security in Belgium; an inspiration for Europe?’, which portrays the European private security landscape in facts and figures and which lays out the Belgian perspective on public-private security partnerships. The report is a sequel to the second White Book ‘Private and public security in the Nordic countries’, presented on December 8, 2009 in Stockholm under the Swedish Presidency of the European Union. The third joint White Book highlights Belgian best practice and key principles to ensure sustainable public-private security partnerships, which may serve as inspiration for other European countries.

“The Summit provided real momentum for cooperation among all the stakeholders,” Marc Pissens concluded. “Both CoESS and APEG-BVBO will continue to reach out to decision-makers and policymakers at national and European level to decide together on the right way forward.”

Note to editors:

The **Confederation of European Security Services (CoESS)** is the European umbrella organisation for 30 national private security companies’ associations. It represents the private security services sector in 21 EU Member States and in a total of 28 countries, which translates into 50,000 private security companies employing a total of approximately 1.7 million private security guards. The European private security services industry represented by CoESS generates a yearly turnover of approximately € 23 billion.

APEG-BVBO (Association Professionnelle des Entreprises de Gardiennage – Beroepsvereniging van Bewakingsondernemingen) is the Belgian Private Security Association and the sole representative employers’ federation for the Belgian private security industry. APEG-BVBO, active member of CoESS, defends the interests of its members and of the private security sector in general. Its members represent more than 90% of the Belgian private security market and employ more than 90% of the total number of private security guards active in the sector.

Media contacts:

- Jimena Bernar – T +32 2 645 79 90 – E-mail: jbernar@cambre-associates.com
- Chris Burns – T +32 2 536 86 72 – E-mail: cburns@cambre-associates.com