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PRESS RELEASE

“Industry calls on Europe to recognize growing role of private security and create an integrated policy framework”

The inaugural European Private Security Summit, held in Brussels today, highlighted the sector’s pivotal contribution to Europe and the growing role private security will play across the European economy and society in the years ahead.

With a view to this expanded role, the Summit underlined the need for the private security industry and European authorities to work in close partnership, developing a more integrated and coordinated political and regulatory framework for private security, founded on the highest quality standards.

In bringing together the best in research, technology and manpower, and with approximately 37,000 operating private companies throughout Europe and some 1.4 million private security personnel, the European private security industry is a global leader, providing not only commercial services but also increasingly ensuring public security in areas previously managed by the state.

Looking ahead, the ever growing demand for security and the changes that are likely to be brought about by the new European Treaty, will give rise to new opportunities for the sector. A clear framework that establishes the role, rights and obligations of the private security industry and supports its ambitions is required to ensure these opportunity are realised and the highest standards of security are met.

Mr. Marc Pissens, President of CoESS said: ***‘Our industry has always and will continue to work towards ensuring the highest quality standards in security’***. He added: ***‘We call on policy makers at all levels to put forward clear guidelines for a more integrated and coordinated European policy framework for private security. Establishing a clear political and legal context will not only support the growth and development of Europe and help our industry make a real difference in the daily lives of Europe’s citizens but also ensure that the European private security sector continues to remain a global leader, setting the standard in security.’***

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NOTE TO THE EDITORS

About Private Security Industry:

Private security companies in Europe cover a wide range of services including cash-in-transit (CIT), cash processing, security training, body guarding, beat patrol, commercial manned guarding, in-house manned security, event security (crowd control), door supervising, alarm monitoring, CCTV monitoring or mobile alarm response.

Since 1989 the private security industry has been working in close partnership with public authorities in many member states in various programs in an effort to combating local crime, to enhance civil protection and secure critical infrastructure.

***About COESS**

CoESS, the Confederation of European Security Services was founded in 1989. CoESS is the European umbrella organisation for some 30 national private security companies' associations.

It is the only representative European employers' organisation defending the interests of the private security industry and is recognised by the European Commission as a European sectoral social partner in accordance with the European Treaties.

CoESS represents some 37,000 private security companies employing a total of approximately 1.4 million private security guards.

CoESS' member associations include: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Norway, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey and United Kingdom.

National member organisations of CoESS include major multinationals such as Group 4 Securicor, Securitas, Prosegur, Brink's, and a large number of national players of different sizes, contributing to the total of 37,000 private security companies CoESS represents.

For more information: www.coess.eu