

## Statement on the screening of passenger ships

Brussels, 6 September 2016 - When taking an airplane from Belgium to the UK or between any other EU countries, the traveller and his entire (hand) luggage are scanned for weapons and dangerous objects / substances. When the same person returns as a passenger on a ferry, only his ticket and ID are checked. Fast turnarounds and other economic considerations play a role to minimize the controls of persons and luggage in the terminals; few terminals have the sufficient scanning equipment in place.

Large numbers of passengers, often over 1 000, are gathered each day in ferry or Ro-Ro terminals around our ports prior departure and then stay a few hours on a ferry. The CoESS members engaged in the security of these terminals are increasingly worried about an attack on these obvious soft targets. It is not a question of “IF”, but “WHEN” an attack will take place in a passenger terminal or on board a ferry.

Each person entering a port should identify him/herself and is liable to search. The search part of the ISPS code is not actually enforced in a harmonised way across the EU. Having in mind the recent terrorist attacks on soft targets in Europe, CoESS recommends that the Authorities in the respective Member States ensure that ferry and Ro-Ro terminals have access to the necessary screening resources and use more frequent random checks, even at risk level 1.

CoESS also recommends that the inspections carried out by the Commission in the field of maritime security pay a specific attention to the protection of ferry passengers.

Thank you.

**Guido Fallenthey, Chairman, CoESS Maritime and Port Security Committee**

**Catherine Piana, CoESS Director General**

About CoESS:

CoESS was set up in 1989 as the Confederation of European Security Services. It is the umbrella organization for 26 national private security employers' associations, of which 19 in EU Member States.

CoESS is recognized by the European Commission as a European sectoral social partner and is active in a constructive Social Dialogue with UNI Europa. The main objective of CoESS is to represent and support the growth of an industry that delivers solutions of high quality and professionalism, focused on the selection and development of qualified staff and technology.