New measures against terrorism - The protection of critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks

The European Commission has adopted today a communication on Critical Infrastructure Protection in the Fight against Terrorism. The document gives an overview of the actions that the Commission is currently taking on protection of critical infrastructure and proposes additional measures to strengthen existing instruments mainly by the establishment of a European programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP) to provide enhanced security for critical infrastructure as an ongoing, dynamic annual system of reporting where the Commission would put forward its views on how to assure the continued functioning of Europe’s critical infrastructure.

EPCIP would promote an ongoing forum where the constraints of competition, liability and information sensitivity can be balanced with the benefits of a more secure critical infrastructure.

As part of this programme a EU Critical infrastructure Warning Information Network (CIWIN) should be established by the Commission to assist Member States, and owners and operators of critical infrastructure to exchange information on shared threats, vulnerabilities and appropriate measures and strategies to mitigate risk in support of critical infrastructure protection. Where sectorial standards do not exist or international norms have not yet been established, the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and other relevant standardisation organisations should propose uniform security sectorial and adapted standards for all the various branches and sectors interested. Such standards should be also proposed at an international level through ISO in order to establish a proper level playing field in this respect.