

Security with “vulnerable gaps”

Successful FIS-Symposium with the topic Homeland Security

Public life more and more moves into the focus of attention of national and corporate efforts to guarantee a stable level of security in everyday life. “Security creates new jobs and costs a lot of money”: as Dieter Joachim Felber, member of the FIS GmbH supervisory board and former president of the Federal Police, pointed out during his presentation of the symposium “Homeland Security” which was organized by FIS in Falkenstein / Taunus for approx. 100 guests from economy, politics and different other organizations.

Dr. Wilhelm Bender, chairman of the board of directors of Fraport AG, explained the quality of interdependence of security and employment. Among the approx. 68.000 employees at Frankfurt Airport 8.300 alone are engaged for security purposes in the security areas. In the coming years “Europe’s most vital mobility hub” with its 130 airlines serving approx. 300 destinations worldwide will continue its investments to guarantee the highest standard of security combined with customer services and comfort.

A “vulnerable gap”, that is what Clark Kent Ervin, former Inspector General of US Department of Homeland Security, detects with a view to the public safety of his homeland. Indeed the USA founded a giant authority for Homeland Security with 180.000 employees and a budget of 40 billion US-Dollars. But in effect only 22 agencies and institutions have simply been combined without achieving essential results regarding security aspects. Still unchecked passengers would be able to take explosives, bombs, IED’s (improvised explosive device) and weapons on board of aircrafts. – this was proved in different tests. Furthermore only 6 % of cargo containers arriving daily from the near and far abroad in the USA, would actually be inspected.

Ervin’s opinion that he also stresses in his book: “Public safety in the USA has hardly improved.”

It proves to be more and more complicated to prevent danger in sufficient time. It is possible to hire activists for terrorist attacks within short time. Ten years ago terrorist training camps in the Middle East were in the focus of the investigators, whereas nowadays the terrorists are hired via internet. According to Joram Bobasch, Managing Director of FIS GmbH, this could happen within a few hours. The group of suspects, listed in the so called "No Fly List" of the Airlines, has increased enormously, from 57 names in the year 2000 up to approx. 66.000 names today.

The political background of potential terrorists has obviously changed:

Al Quaida in particular has ideologically embellished its attacks, as Elmar Theveßen, security expert of the German television channel ZDF confirms, who speaks of a "supposed Muslim self-defense". According to Theveßen there are approx. 33.000 supporters of extremist organizations in Germany at present, 3.000 of them prepared for terrorist attacks.

Here again modern communication provides the technical means for the solidarity that the Muslim world always had lacked. The solidarity of the Islamistic extremists even in Germany is supported by the internet. Without the internet the globalization of terror would not be possible.