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**Action: Purchase of bulletproof vests, ballistic frames and ballistic plates**

**for Cyprus Police -**

**CY/2021/ISF/SO6.NO5.1.3**

**Date of signing the Agreement:** 05/05/2021

**Timeline of the Action:** 01/07/2019 - 31/12/2023

**Budget of the Action:**  € 894.129,15

**Objective:**

The need to purchase bulletproof vests, ballistic frames and ballistic plates for Cyprus Police, arose due to the increase in security measures to deal with possible terrorist attacks, after the realisation of a series of terrorist attacks worldwide, as well as to improve the ability to manage risk situations and crises, within the Republic of Cyprus.

The National Action Plan of the Cyprus Police against terrorism describes dealing with a terrorist attack, such as hostages, kidnappings, murderous attacks, bombings, hijackings, occupying buildings, etc. The objective to combat terrorism and radicalization is achieved by implementing the collection and analysis of information, planning and implementing preventive measures, but also the protection of personalities and potential targets.

Among the priorities of the EU's anti-terrorist strategy, it is both the protection of citizens and infrastructure, as well as the reduction of vulnerabilities to attacks.

Taking into account all of the above, Cyprus Police has taken a series of measures to deal with terrorism. Among other things, it has intensified the controls it carries out with patrols and guarding of the main critical infrastructures, potential targets of foreign interests, as well as “vulnerable targets”, where there is an increased concentration of citizens (department stores, central shopping streets, etc.)

Based on the above, and in an effort to strengthen the operational capabilities of its members, Cyprus Police needs the necessary supplies and equipment. The supply of bulletproof vests, ballistic frames, ballistic plates, and ballistic launchers will significantly enhance security, but at the same time the readiness and efficiency of Police members working in key positions, which need more security from possible terrorist attacks.

Also, the supply of missile launchers is considered necessary for the personal safety of our members and by extension the prevention and fight against organized crime and terrorism. Specifically, the use of the launchers aims to avoid accidents when taking safety measures, e.g. accidental firing when loading or unloading weapons. The launchers are special metal hubs designed to absorb accidental rounds of ammunition.

In view of the above, and in the effort to strengthen the operational capabilities of the members of the Cyprus Police, on 05/05/2021 a Subsidy Agreement has been signed between the European Funds Unit of the Ministry of the Interior, as the Responsible Authority of the Internal Security Fund, and the Cyprus Police. The total duration of the project is 54 months, with a completion date of 31/12/2023.

**The project is co-financed 90% by the EU Internal Security Fund and 10% by the Republic of Cyprus.**