NATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA (NCEU-MK)

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

10th Session of Working Group 4: Justice, Freedom and Security (Chapter 24)

Topic: *"Preventing and Combating Terrorism: A National and European Perspective in Identifying and Protecting Critical Infrastructure"*

1. The Government, relevant institutions (MoI, Ministry of Defense and other institutions) as well as other stakeholders (civil society organizations, academia) to take initiatives towards greater affirmation the European Union's approaches in the field of critical infrastructure protection. This approach consists of a unified normative framework (Directive 2008/114 / E3 of 2008), coordination and harmonization of the national legislations of the member states, but also support for candidate countries.
2. The Government, relevant institutions (MoI, Ministry of Defense and other institutions) to accelerate the process of building a national approach according to the guidelines in the EU approach which emphasizes the importance of building a special national identity in the protection of critical infrastructure.
3. In building the national approach for the protection of critical infrastructure, the Government, relevant institutions (MoI, Ministry of Defense and other institutions) as well as other stakeholders should use positive experiences from some EU member states (eg Croatia) and of the European Commission.
4. Given the fact that building a national approach for the protection of critical infrastructure is a complex process that takes place in several phases, it is recommended that the Government and other relevant institutions (MoI, Ministry of Defense and other institutions) should first focus on identifying and marking European critical infrastructure (according to the guidelines in the EU Directive) and to initiate developed plans to improve their protection.
5. The national approach to protection in the process of identifying critical infrastructure should first be dedicated to the protection of telecommunications, electricity generation systems, energy distribution and water.
6. The Government and the relevant institutions (MoI, Ministry of Defense and other institutions) when identifying critical infrastructure should take into account the terminological harmonization of infrastructure (meeting cross-cutting and sectoral criteria). The application of the sectoral approach means identifying potential critical infrastructure, applying the definition of infrastructure and determining whether it meets the requirements and requirements for 'critical infrastructure' or 'European critical infrastructure'.
7. The Government and the relevant institutions (MoI, Ministry of Defense and other institutions) in the process of adjusting the national framework for the protection of critical infrastructure according to European standards, should establish a system of continuous communication with the relevant directorates in the European Commission because it is a complex process when there is the need for clarification of the criteria, concepts and other aspects.

8. In the prevention and fight against terrorism, ie in the protection of critical infrastructure, the Government and the relevant institutions (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense and other institutions) should accelerate the process of preparation of the Law on Critical Infrastructure. This Law would complete the stack of strategic documents for protection of the critical infrastructure system (National Cyber Security Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia (2018-2022), Law on Defense, Law on Interior, Law on Crisis Management, Law on Protection and rescue and Private Security Act).