

SEMLEX EUROPE Press Release

SEMLEX EUROPE is a Belgian family-owned company which has over the last twenty years designed and installed worldwide new-generation control systems for various identity documents (identity cards, passports, driving licences, etc.). It uses biometric technologies that make them impossible to forge.

SEMLEX EUROPE has for several months been a victim of a defamatory smear campaign. Its economic success, in particular on the African continent, has apparently given rise to increasing jealousy or even strategic frustration.

In this regard, there is the press article entitled "*the expensive biometric passports of the DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo)*" distributed by Reuters news agency in April 2017 and taken up by other press agencies, when the price level has already been shown to be normal and the price used by the DRC is less than the cost of a passport, not possessing the same level of security, in many countries, in particular African countries.

There is also a new Reuters article in December 2017, this time targeting the activities of SEMLEX EUROPE in the Comoros and casting doubt on the conditions for issuing the passport of that country by insinuating that SEMLEX EUROPE could issue it to anyone it wants to, which is completely false. SEMLEX EUROPE plays no part in the decision to issue the passport which is the exclusive prerogative of the Comorian authorities and only their authorised representatives have authority to deliver them.

This bashing campaign consists in arguing that the success of SEMLEX EUROPE, which has become a market leader, supposedly cannot be normal especially since major leading operators have failed where it has succeeded, such that SEMLEX EUROPE is suspected of having acted dishonestly!

Its economic success, however unpalatable it may be to its detractors, is due solely to the quality and cutting-edge technology of its systems and the reliability of its services, taken together with the fact that as a Belgian family-owned company, SEMLEX EUROPE is completely independent and is not answerable to a multinational or a major power.

So, regarding identity documents, where it involves an element concerning their public security, countries look not only for the highest possible quality but also want to work with an operator that is as independent as possible in economic and strategic terms.

Additionally, what makes SEMLEX EUROPE different from its competitors is that it works mainly under Build Operate Transfer (BOT) contracts. This means that no purchase price or investment is demanded from the partner country, as all the necessary local costs and infrastructure are in effect financed by SEMLEX EUROPE in consideration for a fee in the form of a fixed percentage of the price to the public of the identity documents for a limited period. Additionally, at the end of this period, the entire local infrastructure is handed over free of charge to the country concerned, including the training given to local personnel to continue to use them correctly.

This very client-friendly way of working clearly makes all the difference compared with the others since it offers to the partner country a self-sufficient financial model given that the latter always receives a substantial share of the issue price of the identity documents, whilst there is nothing to pay or invest up front, and in addition receives free of charge all the local installations at the end of the contract.

These are the only real reasons for the envied success of SEMLEX EUROPE worldwide, but this bashing campaign is absolutely silent about such success. It is significant that none of these articles refers to the satisfaction of the numerous client countries of SEMLEX EUROPE regarding the quality of the products and services that it has supplied and provided for twenty years worldwide.

This bashing campaign originated in a libellous criminal complaint filed at the beginning of 2017 in Belgium by a person who had first tried to extort money from SEMLEX EUROPE then, finding that this did not succeed, filed a criminal complaint for the purpose of causing harm to it whilst apparently stirring up the press to blow the complaint out of all proportion.

In the meantime, SEMLEX EUROPE has sued for libel and its case is currently being investigated.

As necessary, SEMLEX EUROPE refutes all the malicious insinuations made against it.

However, SEMLEX EUROPE is not conducting its legal action through the press and will therefore not make any further comments about it.

Brussels, 28 December 2017