



20 March 2010 – Press release

First “GEOS Morning Forum”

GEOS held its first Morning Forum on March 24, 2010, from 8:30 to 10:30 am, at the renowned Fouquet’s restaurant in Paris. The panel and guests discussed the the risk of terrorism facing expatriates and corporations as well as the mechanisms of terror funding.

The mechanisms of terror funding

What are the mechanisms by which a company can unwittingly serve the interests of terrorist organisations, and thus become a vector of terror funding ? How is the fight against terror funding organised, in Europe and the United States ? What responsibilities do corporations have with regard to these risks ?

Expatriates and companies and the risk of terrorism

What is the nature of the terror threat facing wealthy, energy-rich nations, where an increasing number of Western corporations operate (Iraq, India, Yemen or Saudi Arabia) ? Though the primary targets of jihadists are diplomats in their role as official representative of ‘enemy’ nations, companies and expatriates are generally far more exposed and represent an easier target for terrorists.

In South America, the threat is not so much terrorism, but rather issues of personal safety and organised crime. Risk prevention, and the realisation by a company that major risks exist, are essential. How do acts of criminality finance drug trafficking and/or terrorism and directly implicate expatriates, raising issues of corporate liability ?

Blue-ribbon panel

To discuss these themes, GEOS was once again honoured to receive **Mr. Jean-Louis Bruguière**, High Representative of the European Union to the United States for the terror finance tracking program and former magistrate specialised in counter-terrorism.

He chaired the meeting along with **Louis Caprioli**, GEOS Director of International Security, and **Jean-Pierre Ferro**, GEOS Amlat Regional Director, on issues crucial to companies operating in hostile business environments. The experience of the speakers in their respective areas of expertise resulted in a comprehensive overview of the threat of terrorism, terror finance, as well as criminality in South America, issues that directly impact business development.

Some thirty GEOS clients and business prospects, concerned by these subjects, came to hear the three speakers and take part in a discussion and Q&A session on these frontline issues.

About GEOS

GEOS is an international group, and the leading risk management and prevention provider in continental Europe.

The Group delivers operational support to clients operating in hostile business environments, with a comprehensive package of solutions ranging from audit, consultancy, assistance to crisis management. GEOS enables its clients to take advantage of business opportunities and to better assess and control both international (political, security, terrorist), and business risk (competition, white collar crime, fraud, counterfeiting).

GEOS in 2010:

480 full-time staff, a turnover of more than 41 million euro in 2009, operations in more than 80 countries, 18 international branches (Algeria, Colombia, Nigeria, Brazil, Mexico, Iraq, Argentina, etc.) and many clients from all sectors of activity.