



BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES

19 Catherine Place, Westminster, London, SW1E 6DX

Telephone 0207 6309666

VAT No.: 891422027

[www.bapsc.org.uk](http://www.bapsc.org.uk)

## **THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES RESPONSE TO THE FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION REGARDING PROMOTING HIGH STANDARDS OF CONDUCT BY PRIVATE MILITARY AND SECURITY COMPANIES (PMSC'S) INTERNATIONALLY**

**24 April 2009**

The BAPSC welcomes the Government's publication of a consultation paper on promoting high standards of conduct by PMSC's internationally and looks forward to working with HMG and other stakeholders. It particularly welcomes the recognition that the BAPSC, an initiative of the UK's leading companies, has a critical part to play.

The BAPSC was founded in 2006 and works to promote the interests, and regulate the activities of, UK based private security firms that provide armed defensive security services overseas.

The BAPSC aims to raise and maintain the standards of operation for the industry. The BAPSC's members provide armed defensive security services and operate to strict Codes of Conduct and Rules of Engagement. They comply fully with the rules and principles of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law. The BAPSC has been fundamental in raising and maintaining standards in a complex and fast moving industry.

BAPSC members play an essential role in helping organisations in the commercial, charitable, governmental and non-governmental sectors to operate efficiently and safely in some of the most challenging areas around the world. They provide the security framework within which these organisations can make a positive impact in these regions through the provision of medical and humanitarian aid as well as infrastructure reconstruction and commercial activity.

The overseas private security industry is a huge growth area for the UK economy. The sector is now valued at £1 billion and increasing.