

## **The Police's decision, which ordered the security company “TM Security” to leave the premises of “Ventbunkers” office, remains in force**

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Riga/Ventspils, 30 January, LETA. Press representative of the State Police, Aigars Bērziņš, informed the news agency LETA, that Central Public Order Police Department of the State Police have made a decision to maintain in force the decision of 30 September of Kurzemes Region Department of the State Police, which says that the security company “TM Security” has to leave the premises, owned by AS “Ventbunkers”, on Sanatorijas street in Ventspils.

Such decision was made, by evaluating the complaint (received in autumn of the last year) against this decision made by Kurzemes Region Department of the State Police. The police do not reveal the names of the complaint submitters or of a submitter.

Aleksandrs Niklass (representative of “Ventbunkers” shareholder Oleg Stepanov, who is an opponent of the Swiss attorney Rudolf Meroni) had already earlier informed to the business portal “Nozare.lv”, that in the nearest future this decision, made by Police Department of Kurzeme region, will be appealed. “The decision was made by the persons, against who Internal Security Office of the State Police has already started the investigation process, and the criminal proceeding has been even instituted,” says Niklass.

Didzis Vilemsons, head of Ventspils Police Station of Kurzemes Region Department, had previously confirmed to the news agency LETA, that a long time ago security guards from security company “TM Security” have left the territory of “Ventbunkers” office in Ventspils.

After several months, by examining documents, the State Police admitted, that security company “TM Security”, the one which occupied “Ventbunkers” office, has violated the law, the business portal “Nozare.lv” was previously informed by the supporters of the Swiss attorney Rudolf Meroni – Press Department of company “Ventbunkers”.

In the decision of 30 September of Kurzeme Region Department of State Police the activities of the security company were recognized to be illegal and further in the decision it was said, that the security company “TM Security” should immediately leave the

premises, owned by “Ventbunkers”, on Sanatorijas street in Ventspils.

The Chairman of the Supervisory Board of “Ventbunkers” Mr. Meroni emphasized: “The saddest thing about all these events is fact, that the State Police needed several months in order to verify in the Register of Enterprises which the legitimate Management Board of the company was, to which an access to the company's territory was illegally, contrary to any provisions of law, denied by “TM Security”. This, the so-called security company in many other ways troubled the company's work, but Ventspils Police were just sitting and watching.”

However, “Ventbunkers” positively evaluates the decision of State Police and hopes that in future “such obvious illegalities will be prevented more rapidly”.

“Ventbunkers” also considers, that “more than incomprehensible is why Minister of the Interior Linda Mūrniece instead of complimenting the work of police, when they for a while managed to “clean” the premises of “Ventbunkers” from this armed grouping, she publicly reprimanded the policemen, but later on, after it became clear that the police's action was legitimate and honest, she did not apologize to them.”

Perhaps, her low trust in the employees of the department, administered by the Minister herself, is the reason why she did not gain the public support and loyalty in the Saeima elections.

Legal expert and attorney Artūrs Zvejsalnieks, who represented the interests of “Ventbunkers” in this case, is also quite puzzled about the precedent of “TM Security” matter. He emphasized, that “since January of 2010 the Police have tolerated situation, where physical force and physical occupation of company's property are used in civil dispute, but such kind of incidents must be avoided in a law governed state”.

As informed, during the night of 16 June persons dressed in the uniform of security company “TM Security” - in total nearly 20 people – entered the territory of the office building. Already at night the personnel of “TM Security”, that managed to get into the territory, began to challenge the security guards of “Ventbunkers”, representing the company “Koblenz drošība” - dogs were set on them, water was poured over the security guards and other methods were used to physically affect these guards in order to provoke them.

As informed, Austrian investors have expressed their interest about oil transshipment assets in Ventspils, then it comes, that they are interested not only in AS "Ventspils nafta", but also in the purchase of AS "Ventbunkers"; this information was confirmed to the newspaper "Dienas Bizness" by Aleksandrs Niklass, representative of Oļegs Stepanovs, and by the Swiss Advocate Rudolf Meroni, who, according to the decision of the Prosecutor General Office, has been appointed as a custodian of Aivars Lembergs's attached property and of "Ventbunkers" shares.

Transactions could materialize, but it depends on how coordinated the work of all the shareholders will be, says Stepanovs.

According to unofficial information, that is available to the newspaper, sales transaction amount of "Ventbunkers" (that controls "Latvijas naftas tranzīts", the second largest "Ventspils nafta" shareholder), is estimated to be 450 to 500 million euros or 315 to 350 million lats.