

PRESS RELEASE

PROTECTION UNIT WINS MAJOR **EUROPEAN COMMISSION CONTRACT**

Brussels, Wednesday August 10, 2022 - Protection UNIT, a strong contender in the security market and the largest Belgian company in this sector, has won the very important public contract from the European Commission. It is now the new security provider of one of the main institutions of the European Union.

This "historic" contract, which will officially take effect on October 1, will create 1,100 new permanent contract jobs! With now more than 3,000 employees (there were around 100 in 2018), Protection UNIT has consolidated its position as one of the leaders in the sector in Belgium, boasting significant and controlled growth. As a reminder, the security market in Belgium accounts for approximately 20,000 jobs in total. With this new contract, Protection UNIT now represents more than 15% of this growing market. An exceptional feat for the 100% Belgian company, which has gone from 7 million euros to more than 160 million euros in annual turnover, in barely 4 years.

Protection UNIT Founder, Samuel Di Giovanni: "What we have achieved in recent years is exceptional. It is the result of tireless work and the steadfast determination of all our teams. Winning a contract of this size has given me a feeling of great pride and confirms for me that we made the right strategic choices."

"This is an important and defining moment for the company," said Nicolas de Angelis, BELUX CEO of Protection UNIT. "The fact that the European Commission has placed its trust in us is a wonderful recognition: it consolidates our position as a leader in the security market in Belgium, a leader with strong family values, that is attentive to its clients and has a constant drive for quality. The signing of this key contract is not only a great achievement but also an excellent opportunity for our international development strategy. I would like to thank all of our employees for the quality work carried out and to thank our clients as well, without whom none of this would have been possible. Their trust in us over the years remains, in my view, the key to lasting success."

Summary of the contract in a few figures:

- 70 buildings to secure and monitor
- 1,300,000 hours of service provision annually
- 1,100 new permanent contract jobs
- 6-year contract

Main Mission Details:

- Access control for people and vehicles, support for people (visitors, technicians, etc.) in buildings
- Monitoring of 70 buildings
- Motorised security rounds and alarm intervention services
- Visitor management
- Various administrative tasks related to security

Protection UNIT Commercial Director, Nicolas van Ysendyck: "Protection UNIT has demonstrated strong growth for many years. With now more than 3,000 employees and more than 1,000 active clients, the company is now aiming for a record turnover of 160 million euros for 2023. Protection UNIT will continue to grow in Flanders and internationally, as well as in sectors where it has already achieved significant success, such as the airport sector, the hospital sector, the SEVESO sites, and the academic environment. It will also maintain its focus on new areas of activity, such as remote surveillance and remote guarding, the use of drones and sensitive missions for embassies and military bases."

In addition to the 1,100 new jobs created by the European Commission contract, the immediate recruitment of 300 people in Belgium and Luxembourg is one of the priorities to support this growth and to meet the strict quality criteria for which the company is well-known. Protection UNIT will also continue to invest in the continuous training of its employees, as well as in the search for new technologies to help better serve its clients.

It is with determination and conviction that Protection UNIT will accomplish its missions, always maintaining the same DNA and the same vision. "People are at the heart of its concerns," to guarantee the well-being of its employees and the long-term satisfaction of all its clients.

ABOUT PROTECTION UNIT

Protection UNIT is a Belgian security company created in 2009 by Samuel Di Giovanni. The company, a leader in the French-speaking area of Belgium, now has more than 3,100 employees, 1,000 active clients and a turnover of around 160 million euros.

