

according to the nature of their source.

5 5. The system (100) for managing secure flows as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the flows for which the degree of priority is the highest are associated with the data links benefitting from the highest available bit rate.

10 ~~6. A method for managing secure flows transmitted between a first local area network (S1) and at least one second local area network (S2) interconnected via a plurality of wide area networks WAN (RW1, WAN M, WAN C), said local area networks (S1, S2) comprising at least one~~
15 ~~input/output interface I1, said wide area networks WAN comprising at least one input/output interface I2, I3, said method being characterized in that it comprises at least the following steps for each local area network (S1, S2):~~
20 ~~o defining a plurality of functions F1 to F9 which can be integrated on a single hardware and/or software platform connected to said interfaces I1, I2, I3 of said local and wide area networks,~~
25 ~~o the function F1 handles the IPsec protection of the flows from the interfaces I1 and intended for the interfaces I2 and I3, the function F1 being broken down into subfunctions F1.1 to F1.n, n representing the number of wide area networks WAN,~~
30 ~~o the function F2 handles the setting up of a plurality of point-to-point links between said hardware platforms connected to the input/output interfaces of each local area network (S1, S2),~~
35 ~~o the function F3 handles the switching, according to their characteristics, of the flows from and intended for the interface I1 of said local area~~

network (S1) by separating the session mode flows from the other flows,

5 ~~o the function F4 handles the processing of the session mode flows,~~

~~o the function F5 handles the processing of the exchanges between the function F1 and the function F4, notably by indicating to the function F1 the starts, ends and numbers of sessions contained in said flows,~~

10 ~~o the function F6 handles the processing of the congestions,~~

~~o the function F7 handles the interworking with the wide area networks WAN, by recovering the traffic engineering information (TE), by summarizing said information and by communicating said information to the function F1,~~

15 ~~o the functions F2, F3, F4 and F5 are network functions whose administration is handled by the function F8,~~

20 ~~o the function F9 handles the administration of the security functions such as the function F1.~~