



News from the

Member Federations

- VPB quality mark
- ISIA new partnership with UCD Dublin
- New Chairman for SCI

Working Committees

- Working Committee Social Dialogue: Best Value Conference in Berlin
- Working Committee Social Dialogue: Stakeholder Conference on Flexicurity
- Working Committee Social Dialogue: Agreement on harassment and violence at work
- Working Committee Maritime Security: SAGMaS meeting May 21, 2007
- Working Committee Enlargement: Vienna meeting May 10, 2007
- Working Committee Airport Security: Roundtable debate 'European Aviation Security Providers call for European certification'

European Union

- Bulgaria and Romania jump first monitoring hurdles
- EU economy to grow, says IMF
- Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union
- Poland set for euro entry in 2012
- EU governments should pay for air safety, say MEPs
- Crackdown on work violence
- Deficit down
- Sarkozy keen to get Europe back on track
- ISIA new partnership with UCD Dublin
- Security guard convicted to three months in prison
- Combating VAT fraud
- Deal reached on EU roaming cap
- Eurozone to grow again in 2008

CoESS' Newsflash welcomes input

The Newsflash is issued on a monthly basis and remains the ideal tool to keep all CoESS member federations up to date on current (member) activities and initiatives, and, to broaden its scope, on news from the European Union. If necessary, an extra Newsflash will be published with 'hot' news.

Of course, we would greatly appreciate your help in making this Newsflash a true voice for our sector! Therefore, please do not hesitate to provide us with any news items, content and comments you deem useful and/or interesting. Your input is highly valued! Please send your reactions to apeg-bvbo@i-b-s.be or lvs@i-b-s.be. Thank you!

VPB quality mark



VPB, our member federation from the Netherlands, reports that 14 private security companies have now achieved the quality mark, including R.A.N. Bewaking and MPL Beveiligingsdiensten B.V. VPB also reports on the Innovation Vouchers. With this voucher (credit note of € 7500), SMEs can commission a study on innovation opportunities for a product, a production process or a service by a public research institute.

- Source: VPB checklist April 2007 | Date: April, 27, 2007
- For further information, please consult the CPB website: <http://www.cpb.nl/eng/pub/cpbreeksen/document/140/>.

ISIA new partnership with UCD Dublin

The Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA), member of the Security Congress of Ireland (SCI), member of CoESS, through its training arm ISIT Skillnet, announced an academic partnership with UCD, which will commence in September 2007. Detailed plans are now in place for members of the security industry to undergo both Diploma and Degree Courses in Business Studies through the distance-learning department at UCD.

- Source: SecurEview | Date: May 8, 2007
 - For further information, please consult the ISIT Skillnet website: http://www.isitskillnet.ie/isit-skillnet/Main/News_UCD_Launch.htm.
-

New Chairman for SCI

Les McLindon, former President of the Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA), was elected the new Chairman of the Security Congress of Ireland (SCI), member of CoESS. CoESS warmly welcomes the new Chairman and congratulates him in his role as Chairman.

- Source: <http://www.securitycongress.ie/>
-

Working Committee Social Dialogue: Best Value Conference in Berlin

On April 19, 2007, a successful joint meeting on Best Value was organized between CoESS and UNI-Europa in Berlin, Germany.

- The presentations that were given during the Best Value conference can be found on the BDWS website: <http://www.bdws.de/cms/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=519>.
-

Working Committee Social Dialogue: Stakeholder Conference on Flexicurity

On April 20, 2007, CoESS participated in an important conference on Flexicurity. The conference is part of the board consultation process the European Commission is conducting among Member States, parliamentarians, Trade Unions, business, NGOs and the general public on Flexicurity. The Commission will draw conclusions from this board consultation and will present in June a Communication, which is to provide major input to the development of common principles around Flexicurity.

- The presentations that were given during the Stakeholder Conference on Flexicurity can be found on the European Commission's website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/employment_strategy/flex_meaning_en.htm.
-

Working Committee Social Dialogue: Agreement on harassment and violence at work

The European Commission reports that on April 26, 2007, cross-industry social partners have signed the autonomous framework agreement on harassment and violence at work.

- For further information, please consult the European Commission's website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/569&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.
 - To download the full agreement text, please follow this link: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/news/2007/apr/harassment_violence_at_work_en.pdf.
-

Working Committee Maritime Security: SAGMaS meeting May 21, 2007

On May 21, 2007, CoESS attended the SAGMaS (Stakeholder Advisory Group on Maritime Security) meeting in Brussels. The SAGMaS group discusses and debates new legislation that may affect the maritime industry as a whole.

- For further information, please consult the European Commission's website: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/maritime/index_en.htm.
-

Working Committee Enlargement: Vienna meeting May 10, 2007

On May 10, 2007, CoESS organised an important meeting in Vienna. EU Member States, both new and candidate States, presented their country reports. A debate on future goals and objectives of the Working Committee Enlargement was organised.

- The documents of this meeting will soon be made available on the CoESS Intranet site: <http://coess.org/intranet/login.php>. Please note that you will have to login to be able to view the documents. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the General Secretariat.

Working Committee Airport Security: Roundtable debate ‘European Aviation Security Providers call for European certification’

On May 2, 2007, the European Aviation Security Association (EASA), corresponding member of CoESS, organised a seated dinner roundtable on the issue of high quality security services and third party liability. The roundtable gathered some 45 participants from public and private sectors and was hosted by Alexander Nuno Alvaro, MEP, at the European Parliament.

The aim of the roundtable was to foster discussion and debate between key stakeholders at the EU level on the need for EU certification and its potential role in enhancing security standards and addressing the issue of unlimited third party liability.

- The presentations that were given during the roundtable debate can be found on the EASA website: <http://www.easa-security.org>.

Bulgaria and Romania jump first monitoring hurdles

The EU's two newest member states met their 31 March deadline for reporting to the European Commission on their progress in justice and home affairs. Despite their accession in January, Bulgaria and Romania still have to prove they comply with the EU rules in full.

- Source: The European Voice | Issue: April 4-11, 2007
- For further information on Bulgaria, please consult the European Commission's website: <http://www.evropa.bg/en/del/eu-programmes/competitions.html>.
- For further information on Romania, please consult the European Commission's website: <http://www.infoeuropa.ro/jsp/page.jsp?cid=46&lid=2>.

EU economy to grow, says IMF



Europe's economy is set for robust growth this year and next, the International Monetary Fund's European director said. The International Herald Tribune reports that director Michael Deppler believes structural reforms may help the European economy to remain buoyant. "I think that people underestimate the extent that reforms have paid off," he said at the IMF's spring meeting.

- Source: <http://www.EUpolitix.com> | Date: April 16, 2007
- For further information, please consult the Times website: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article1646505.ece>.

Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union

On June 7, 2006, the European Commission adopted a Green Paper on a Future Maritime Policy for the European Union. A patchwork of national and EU policies, divided between dozens of sectors, has led to overlapping and sometimes contradictory maritime rules, says the Commission, which wants to develop an EU-wide policy.

- Source: European Voice (<http://www.europeanvoice.com>) | Issue: April 12-18, 2007
- For further information, please consult the European Commission's website: http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy_en.html.

Poland set for euro entry in 2012

Polish finance minister Zyta Gilowska said that Poland would be ready for the euro in 2012, Les Echos reports. She said the country would meet convergence criteria by 2009, and that talks on setting the final exchange rate for the zloty could start in 2010.

- Source: <http://www.EUpolitix.com> | Date: April 25, 2007

EU governments should pay for air safety, say MEPs



In a report adopted on April 25, MEPs backed several amendments to council's position on a new regulation laying down common rules for air safety including banned items and air marshalls. The MEPs said the member states that want to implement extra security measures not covered by the regulation should pay for the measures themselves. Given the differences in opinion, the report will now go into conciliation between parliament and council. If agreement is reached in conciliation, the new regulation could take effect from 2009 onwards.

- Source: <http://www.EUpolitix.com> | Date: April 26, 2007
- To view the full article, please consult the EUpolitix website: <http://www.eupolitix.com/EN/News/200704/06ecc2aa-a757-46ac-bd30-7f5896068cea.htm>.

Crackdown on work violence



Employment commissioner Vladimir Spidla has officially signed a pact with the EU cross-sectoral 'social partners' aimed at combating harassment and violence at work. He will be joined at a news conference in Brussels by the heads of the main European trade union and employers' federations.

- Source: <http://www.EUpolitix.com> | Date: April 26, 2007
- For further information, please consult the European Commission's website: http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/020407_violence_EN3.pdf.

Deficit down

Government deficits across the 13 eurozone countries fell from 2.5% of gross domestic product (GDP) to 1.6% last year, according to annual figures released by the EU statistics office Eurostat on Tuesday. Across the 27 member states, the deficit fell from 2.4% to 1.7% over the same period. Government debt rose slightly for both the eurozone and EU27 in 2006.

- Source: The European Voice | Issue: April 26-May 2, 2007

Sarkozy keen to get Europe back on track



Newly elected French President, Nicolas Sarkozy, wants the issue of the constitution to be resolved as quickly as possible, and certainly before France takes over the EU presidency in July 2008. But he also warned his EU partners to expect France to continue to fight against economic liberalisation - a warning to trade commissioner Peter Mandelson not to sell Europe down the river at the WTO. Sarkozy also stressed that he would continue to oppose Turkey's EU entry, but that he supported the EU's efforts to develop strong relationships with the wider Mediterranean basin, which should include Turkey.

- Source: <http://www.EUpolitix.com> | Date: May 8, 2007
- For further information, please consult the BBC News website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6630797.stm>.

Combating VAT fraud

BusinessEurope Secretary General Philippe de Buck and VAT specialists met EU Commissioner Kovacs on 3 May to discuss possible measures to combat VAT fraud in the European Union. VAT fraud, in particular so-called carousel fraud, where VAT-liable domestic transactions are fraudulently combined with VAT-free EU transactions, is estimated to account for up to 2.5% of EU GDP. The Commissioner agreed with BusinessEurope that, while all options need to be considered, improved risk management and administrative cooperation within current VAT arrangements might significantly reduce the problem.

- Source: BusinessEurope Headlines No. 2007-16 | Date: May 9, 2007
- For further information, please consult the BusinessEurope website: <http://www.businesseurope.eu/Content/Default.asp?>

Deal reached on EU roaming cap



After weeks of talks, MEPs and national governments have agreed on a cap for roaming fees across the EU. The deal, which comes after difficult negotiations, must now be formally approved by the parliament and council. The two sides agreed that it should cost a maximum of € 0.49 per minute to call home from another EU country and € 0.24 per minute to receive a call.

- Source: <http://www.EUpolitix.com> | Date: May 16, 2007
- For further information, please consult the EUpolitix website: <http://www.eupolitix.com/EN/News/200705/923af36a-f2b3-49b8-b580-29db1a8fa4b0.htm>.

For further information on these topics, please contact the General Secretariat:

- Phone: +32 2 462 07 73
- E-mail: apeg-bybo@i-b-s.be or ivs@i-b-s.be

For general information on CoESS, please consult the CoESS website: <http://www.coess.org>.