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VPB quality mark



VPB, our member federation from the Netherlands, reports that meanwhile 15 security companies have achieved the quality mark. Randstad Bewaking B.V. from Amsterdam has achieved the quality mark this month. The quality mark certificate is valid for three years. Each year, an independent external certifying institution verifies security companies awarded with this quality mark.

- Source: VPB checklist May 2007 | Date: May 31, 2007
- For further information, please consult the VPB website: <http://www.vpb.nl/kwaliteit.html>.

Individual licensing

The Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA), member of CoESS, reports that the licensing of individual working in the Door Supervisor (Licensed Premises) and Security Guard (Static) sectors became mandatory from April 1, 2007. 14,887 applications have been received for Security Guards and Door Supervisor. An earlier industry estimate of 20,000 Security Guards and Door Supervisors would appear to have been overestimated from this response or there are a further 25% still outstanding for licensing.

- Source: SecurEview (ISIA) | Date: June 5, 2007
- For further reading, please consult the ISIA website: http://www.isia.ie/isia/Main/News_Licensing_Individuals.htm.

Working Committee Social Dialogue: Social Dialogue meeting June 11, 2007

On June 11, 2007, CoESS participated to the Social Dialogue meeting together with UNI-Europa and the European Commission. The following topics were discussed:

- Implementation of Social Dialogue texts at national level
 - Health and Safety (Violence at Work interprofessional agreement and Questionnaire on Stress)
 - Best Value project
 - Setting a framework on modernisation of work organisation
 - “Tour of Europe” of the Social Dialogue
 - Gender equality: first debate for a joint declaration

 - The Commission’s report of this meeting will be communicated as soon as it becomes available.
 - For background information on the Social Dialogue, please consult the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/index_en.htm.
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Working Committee Guarding: CoESS Campaign ‘The Future of our Industry’ - qualitative and quantitative report June 11, 2007

During the last Working Committee Guarding on June 11, 2007, Jorma Hakala presented the preliminary qualitative and quantitative reports on the CoESS Campaign ‘The Future of our Industry’. Furthermore, the current status of the CEN/BT/TF167 Terminology project was discussed.

- To consult the report of the Working Committee Guarding of June 11, 2007, please consult the CoESS Intranet site: <http://coess.org/intranet/login.php>. Please note that you will have to login to be able to view the document. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the General Secretariat.
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Working Committee Social Dialogue: ‘Industrial Relations in Europe’ Conference

On June 14, 2007, CoESS participated in an important conference organised by the European Commission in order to discuss recent findings on industrial relations presented by the European Commission in its 2006 report on ‘Industrial Relations in Europe’ and by the European Foundation in its 2007 ‘Annual Review of Industrial Relations Developments in Europe’. The meeting focused on two issues: membership trends and strategies of social partner organisations and on career development and precariousness from a gender perspective.

- The presentations that were given during this conference and further information can be found on the Eurofound’s website: <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/events/2007/confbrussels140607/index.htm>.
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Working Committee Social Dialogue: Stakeholder’s Conference on ‘Active Inclusion - Minimum Income Schemes and the Integration of People excluded from the Labour Market’

On June 15, 2007, CoESS participated in an important stakeholder’s conference organised by the DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. Active inclusion emerges as a powerful means of promoting the social and labour market integration of the most disadvantaged. This spring, the European Council reaffirmed the need to strengthen economic and social cohesion throughout the Union. It also stated that more attention should be given to active inclusion, i.e. ensuring adequate levels of minimum resource for all, including minimum income schemes and access to quality services, balanced with making work pay.

- The documents that were discussed during this conference can be found on the European Commission’s website: http://www.ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/active_inclusion_en.htm.
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Working Committee Social Dialogue: Forum Liaison June 27, 2007

On June 27, 2007, CoESS participated to another Forum Liaison meeting in Brussels. This debate focused on: the EU Health and Safety Strategy 2007-2012, Article 138 consultations and Social Dialogue initiatives, Harassment and Violence at work and the support to the social partners under the European Social Fund. The presentations that were given during this Forum will soon be made available online on the European Commission’s website (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities).

Bulgarian opposition wins EU parliament vote



The Bulgarian opposition narrowly won European parliament elections, according to the results announced on Monday, reports the IHT. The GERB party, led by the Sofia mayor, Boiko Borisov, won nearly 21.7 per cent of the vote to elect MEPs - a blow to the governing Socialists, who won 21.4 per cent. Sunday's vote was seen as a clear signal to the Socialist-led governing coalition that Bulgarians are displeased with living standards and the government's inability to curb crime and corruption.

- Source: <http://www.EUpolitix.com> | Date: May 22, 2007
 - For further information, please consult the International Herald Tribune's website: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/05/21/europe/bulgaria.php>.
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Eurozone growth

Eurozone gross domestic product in the first quarter of 2007 grew by 3.1% over 12 months, compared to 3.3% in the previous quarter, according to seasonally adjusted figures released by statistics agency Eurostat yesterday (May 15, 2007). GDP for the eurozone and the EU27 grew by 0.6% during the first quarter of 2007, compared to 0.9% in the previous quarter.

- Source: The European Voice | Issue: May 16-23, 2007
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EU court sides with trade unions

In a landmark opinion, the European court of justice suggested that trade unions have the right to stop companies from other member states from paying low wages, German press reports. FT Deutschland says the ruling is a real boost for the EU's trade unions and notes that there is no reaction yet from the European commission - which had previously spoken out in favour of more liberal rules for the job market.

- Source: <http://www.EUpolitix.com> | Date: May 24, 2007
 - For further information, please consult the Financial Times Europe website: http://www.ft.com/cms/s/aa4d4388-0914-11dc-a349-000b5df10621,dwp_uuid=70662e7c-3027-11da-ba9f-00000e2511c8.html.
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Improving security through satellite telecommunications



Two companies are implementing a project, supported by the European Space Agency (ESA), to introduce an innovative solution for alarm monitoring and video surveillance via satellite to meet the increasing demand for security systems from the government and corporate market.

- Source: <http://www.theparliament.com> | Date: May 17, 2007
 - For further information, please consult the ESA website: http://www.esa.int/esaTE/SEM8618RR1F_index_0.html.
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Revenue Commissioners to look at the Security Industry

Frank Daly, Chairman of the Revenue Commissioners, while discussing the departments investigations into the construction industry mentioned that future investigations will be focussing on the Security Industry and others.

- Source: SecurEview (ISIA) | Date: June 5, 2007
 - The Revenue Annual Report 2006 can be downloaded from the Irish Revenue Commissioners' website: http://www.revenue.ie/annualreport/annualreport_2006/en/anrep_06.pdf.
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EU quality of work a 'top priority'



Four out of five workers in the EU are satisfied with their working conditions, according to a new survey published on June 5, 2007. But the poll shows that satisfaction with some aspects of work, such as pay or possibilities for career advancement, tends to be 'significantly' lower.

- Source: <http://www.theparliament.com> | Date: June 5, 2007
 - For further information, please consult the The Parliament website: <http://www.theparliament.com/EN/News/200706/14f02e5c-9767-46b7-8af5-ff898aa6a1a6.htm>.
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CHESSESS launches website

The British Standards Institution (BSI) is leading a consortium of national standards bodies (NSBs) from the UK, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Spain and The Netherlands to determine the feasibility of horizontal service standardisation. Called the CEN Horizontal European Service Standardization Strategy (CHESSESS), its mission is to facilitate the delivery of services across the European Union through the development of European Standards structured on generic principles. On May 28, 2007, CHESSESS has officially launched its website: www.chesss.eu.

- For further information and in order to register for CHESSESS workshops, please consult the CHESSESS website: www.chesss.eu.
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Green light for EU-Serbia 'association talks'

The European Commission has given the go-ahead to resume talks with Serbia on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), ahead of a visit by the international war crimes tribunal chief prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, this week.

- Source: <http://www.EurActiv.com> | Date: June 4, 2007
 - To view the full article and for further reading, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/green-light-eu-serbia-association-talks/article-164216>.
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Špidla to clarify rules on posted workers



EU employment commissioner Vladimir Špidla will clarify EU rules on the posting of workers to other member states on Wednesday, June 13, 2007. MEPs raised concerns about the different approaches adopted by member states to the posting of workers as part of the broader debate about the EU services directive. In particular they were concerned that workers from countries with lower wages and poorer working conditions could be posted to other parts of the EU on the same conditions, potentially undermining local labour markets. Špidla will explain how member states must interpret the already existing rules on the posting of workers to ensure that this so-called "social dumping" does not take place.

- Source: DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities website | Date: June 13, 2007
 - For further reading, please consult the European Commission's website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=252.
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Citizens want EU constitution referendum, suggests poll

Plans by Europe's leaders to push a reworked EU constitution without further referenda are strongly opposed by European citizens, reports the FT. An FT/Harris poll found strong majorities in big European countries in favour of putting the next phase of EU integration to public votes in countries such as Britain, France, the Netherlands and Poland that did not ratify the original constitution.

- Source: <http://www.EUpolitix.com> | Date: June 18, 2007
 - For further reading, please consult the Financial Times' website: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/48a5bf24-1d38-11dc-9b58-000b5df10621.html>.
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Key debate on pension rights on EU parliament agenda

On June 22, 2007, MEPs in Strasbourg debated the enlargement of the eurozone to Malta and Cyprus on 1 January 2008. Items on the plenary also included a first reading debate on the improvement of the portability of supplementary pension rights, financial support to Palestine and a series of reports from the civil liberties committee.

- Source: European Parliament website | Date: June 20, 2007
 - For further reading, please consult the European Parliament's website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2007-0269+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>.
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EU and US to collaborate on aircraft pollution

The EU and the US have vowed to work together to cut aircraft noise and pollution by pooling research funds and ensuring compatibility of air traffic control systems, reports FT Europe. European transport commissioner Jacques Barrot and Marion Blakey, head of the federal aviation administration, launched the collaboration at the Paris air show with the backing of companies including Airbus and Boeing.

- Source: [Financial Times website](#) | Date: June 20, 2007
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France facing EU court action

France is expected to be taken to the European court on justice on June 27, 2007 over a variety of different infractions. The failure to transpose EU rules on combating counterfeiting will certainly be sanctioned, les Echos reports, as will Paris' intransigence over professional qualifications - under French law, notaries must be of French nationality, contravening internal market rules.

Another case could also be brought concerning the level of nitrates in the water around Brittany - which dates back as far as 1975 - but controversial rules on investments by foreign companies in France should avoid sanctions. There is also likely to be a reasoned opinion (the final warning ahead of court action) over France's resistance to online gambling sites.

- Source: [Les Echos website](#) | Date: June 26, 2007
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EU maritime policy must provide 'added value'



Future EU maritime policy must provide "added value" across a wide range of policies, according to a major stakeholder in maritime affairs.

- Source: <http://www.theparliament.com> | Date: June 26, 2007
 - To view the full article, please refer to the The Parliament website: <http://www.theparliament.com/EN/News/200706/b9b70922-c76e-4db3-b8a1-1535e5fbb23f.htm>.
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EU to adopt flexicurity communication

The European Commission is adopting a communication to help member states implement flexicurity strategies together with social partners and other stakeholders. The aim of the communication is to facilitate a comprehensive debate between these actors so that the European council may adopt, by the end of 2007, a set of common principles on flexicurity.

- Source: DG Employment and Social Affairs | Date: June 27, 2007
 - This communication can be downloaded from the European Commission's website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/news/2007/jun/flexicurity_en.pdf.
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CoESS General Assembly

Dear Members, please keep in mind that the next CoESS General Assembly will be organised on **September 20, 2007**. The official invitation, including agenda, registration form and working documents will be communicated at a later stage.

May we kindly ask you to block this date in your respective calendars? Many thanks in advance!

Kindest regards,

The CoESS General Secretariat

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

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

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