



newsflash

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First evaluation VPB security quality mark



VPB, the Dutch private security association, member of CoESS, reports that the Quality Mark Commission commenced its first evaluation of the VPB security quality mark. The Commission will organise an enquiry among holders of the quality mark, certification institutes and advisors on their respective experiences and ideas concerning the security quality mark. Other stakeholders, such as companies that do not hold the quality mark and clients, will be contacted in order to assess how widely known the quality mark is. The evaluation period will be concluded by the end of 2008.

- Source: VPB Checklist | February 2008
- For further information, please consult the VPB website: <http://www.vpb.nl>.

Safety & Security Conference 2008 - Working together on security

VPB is a member of the Dutch Association of Security Service Providers (Verbond van Beveiligingsorganisaties), who, in April 2008, are organising the Safety & Security Conference 2008. The main theme of the conference is 'Working together on security'.

- Source: VPB Checklist | February 2008
- For further information on the Safety & Security Conference 2008, please consult the following website: http://www.safetysecurityamsterdam.nl/ssa2007/n/exp_overig165 (English) and http://www.safetysecurityamsterdam.nl/ssa2007/n/exp_overig174 (Dutch).

SNES and USP sign a joint declaration



On March 7, 2008 SNES, the French private security association, member of CoESS, and USP, the second French private security association, candidate member of CoESS, signed a joint declaration which will unite both associations in their joint activities to overcome the economic and structural crisis the French private security market is currently facing and to further develop and promote the private security sector as a whole. Both associations will create transversal workgroups to tackle some of the most urgent questions.

With this new approach, both SNES and USP strive to engage clients and public authorities in the dossiers these workgroups are dealing with. In order to seal this multipartite pact and to create an open dialogue, SNES and USP will organise a National Private Security Convention on April 8, 2008 in Paris aimed at gathering private security providers and their clients in order to jointly establish the pillars of this renewed win-win situation.

- Source: SNES | March 13, 2008
- To review the joint SNES-USP declaration, please consult the SNES website (French): http://www.e-snes.org/i_zip/declcomSNES-USP.pdf.

Working Committee Guarding - March 4, 2008 (Brussels)

On March 4, 2008 the Working Committee Guarding discussed several agenda points: update on the present situation in EU and CEN projects, draft proposal for a possible future EU harmonisation, methodologies for surveys and statistics, draft paper on the definition on private security, draft paper on the survey questions concerning other interest groups and organisation of the Working Committee Guarding and work until the CoESS General Assembly.

- The report of the Working Committee Guarding is 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 document. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the General Secretariat.

Third Party Violence Seminar - March 14, 2008 (Brussels)

On March 14, 2008 the European Commission, in cooperation with the European sectoral social partners, organised a multi-sectoral seminar on Third Party Violence in Brussels. Violence and harassment at work are high on the EU agenda. The European Framework Agreement on Harassment and Violence at Work refers to violence from third parties such as clients, customers, patients and pupils; although this issue is not included in its provisions. There is therefore scope for sectoral social partners to take action reflecting the specific needs of those concerned. The aim of the seminar was to explore possibilities to complement the cross-sectoral agreement from a more specific sectoral and/or multi-sectoral point of view. CoESS invited Professor Guy Lebeer (Université Libre Bruxelles, ULB) to elaborate on the CoESS manual, co-developed by Prof. Lebeer, entitled 'Preventing Occupational Hazards in the Private Security Sector' and dealing with (third party) violence and harassment at work. The seminar gathered some 200 attendees from six sectors.

- The programme of the seminar and the presentations that were given during the seminar can be downloaded from the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/conference_en.htm.
- The European Framework Agreement on Harassment and Violence at Work can also be reviewed on the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/docs/harassement_agreement_en.pdf.
- The CoESS manual entitled 'Preventing Occupational Hazards in the Private Security Sector' is available through the CoESS website: http://www.coess.eu/documents/gardiennage_gb.pdf.

US air security plans 'unacceptable', says EU



Officials have condemned a US move to bypass the EU by contacting individual EU Member States in a bid to introduce tougher restrictions on transatlantic air travel. The US is pushing for a number of EU countries to transfer additional information on transatlantic passengers and allow armed air marshals on board US carriers flying from the bloc in exchange for visa-free travel to America.

- Source: EurActiv | February 14, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/transport/us-air-security-plans-unacceptable-eu/article-170303>.
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MEPs adopt new rules on aviation security

MEPs adopted common rules and standards in the field of aviation safety on March 11, 2008, including the idea of having security officers - or sky marshals - on flights across the 27 EU Member States. According to the new rules, sky marshals operating on flights will also be able to carry weapons - but only under strict conditions. Their presence on board will not be obligatory and it will be up to the Member States to decide on the matter. But if they decide to use the security officers, they will have to be 'specially selected and trained'. The rules also harmonise screening of passengers and cabin luggage, access control and security checks across the 27 EU Member States.

- Source: Reuters | March 11, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the Reuters website: <http://www.reuters.com/article/hotStocksNews/idUSL109531020080311> and the European Parliament website: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/062-23417-070-03-11-910-20080307IPR23282-10-03-2008-2008-true/default_en.htm.
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Parliament approves aviation security overhaul



Common EU rules for preventing terrorist attacks at airports and planes will enter into force within two years after MEPs approved a compromise with Member States, despite misgivings over who should finance the new security measures. The new rules, which were given the final nod by Parliament on March 11, 2008 cover issues ranging from passenger and baggage screening to aircraft security checks and the recruitment and training of staff.

- Source: EurActiv | March 12, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/transport/parliament-approves-aviation-security-overhaul/article-170926>.
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EU watchdog targets airline sector

EU competition regulators yesterday began a fresh probe into suspected antitrust abuses in the airline sector, raiding offices of several carriers providing flights to Japan. The Commission said there was reason to believe that airlines might have violated EU rules on restrictive business practices.

- Source: Financial Times | March 12, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the Financial Times website: http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/06797752-efd9-11dc-8a17-0000779fd2ac.html?nclink_check=1.
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EU and US reach deal on travel security negotiations

After weeks of EU internal political wrangling, the European Commission has secured itself a seat at the negotiating table when it comes to discussing a new set of US security conditions for establishing a visa-free regime with EU Member States. Both parties agreed a so-called twin track approach, meaning that matters that fall within national responsibilities will be discussed with respective EU governments, while issues that fall within EU responsibility will be discussed with Brussels.

- Source: EUobserver | March 13, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/25828/?rk=1>.
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Failure: UK economic regulation of airports

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) blasted as a failure the UK's Civil Aviation Authority's decision to allow costs at London airports to rise by a massive 50% between 2008 and 2013. "Failure is the only word to describe the CAA's decision," said Giovanni Bisignani, IATA's Director General and CEO. For Heathrow, the CAA has allowed charges per passenger to rise by 23.5% from April 1, 2008, followed by increases of 7.5% plus inflation for each of the following four years. In the case of Gatwick, a similar 21% hike from April 1, 2008 will be followed by increases of 2% plus inflation for each of the following four years.

- Source: IATA | March 12, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the IATA website: <http://www.iata.org/pressroom/pr/2008-03-12-01.htm>.
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EU reveals plans to streamline air traffic control

EU transport chief Jacques Barrot said that airlines could save billions of Euros under plans to streamline Europe's air traffic control system. Barrot said that he would table proposals in June 2008 to create larger regional areas of EU airspace superimposed on the 27 national air traffic control systems to smooth flight paths.

- Source: Financial Times | March 19, 2008
- For further information, please consult the Financial Times website: http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d38ee794-f557-11dc-a21b-000077b07658.html?nclick_check=1.

Preliminary airport traffic results for 2007

PRELIMINARY (ESTIMATED) RESULTS 2007

Total passengers: 4.5 billion, +6.4%
Total intl. passengers: 1.8 billion, +8.2%
Total cargo (includes mail): 80.3 million metric tonnes, +2.5%
Total aircraft movts: 68.6 million, +2.4%

ACI released preliminary results for 2007 traffic, based on the regular monthly reports of total traffic from over 870 airports and international reporting from over 580 airports. Due to the very large participation, these preliminary results give an excellent indication of traffic development for the year. Thanks to robust demand on international routes worldwide, total global traffic saw a 6.4 percent increase in overall 2007 passenger numbers. With the exception of Latin America, international traffic outstripped domestic in every region and airports report an 8.2 percent increase in international passenger numbers.

- Source: Airports Council International (ACI) | March 20, 2008
- For further information, please consult the ACI website: http://www.aci.aero/cda/aci_common/display/main/aci_content07_c.jsp?zn=aci&cp=1-5-54_666_2.

Schengen extends to airports for nine EU Member States



On March 30, 2008 the lifting of controls on the free movement of EU citizens from Estonia, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia was extended to EU airports. The enlargement of 'Schengen' controls to airports for these countries follows the successful recent lifting of border controls in the EU's internal land and sea borders in January 2008.

- Source: European Commission | March 27, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/472&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

EU-US aviation liberalisation deal goes into place

An EU-US deal liberalising the airlines market came into force on March 30, 2008 and is expected to result in better choice for passengers and cheaper airfares. The 'Open Skies' deal ends most of the restrictions on airlines from the US and the EU operating between the two continents. US airlines will now be free to fly both to airports in the European Union and from there to third destinations while European airlines will be able to fly to US airports and then on to other destinations. Ticket pricing restrictions whereby a government can say that a foreign airline flying to its country has ticket prices that are too low will also come to an end.

- Source: EUobserver | March 27, 2008
- For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/25881/?rk=1>.

Local UK polls show 88% want referendum on EU Treaty

Local polls conducted in the UK have shown that 88 percent of voters would like a referendum on the EU Treaty, according to campaign group 'I Want a Referendum' (IWAR). The unofficial poll was conducted by postal vote in ten Labour and Liberal Democrat constituencies in February 2008.

- Source: IWAR | March 3, 2008
- For further information, please consult the IWAR website: <http://www.iwantareferendum.com/PRDetail.aspx?ArticleID=1857>.

Macedonia to be set tasks to ensure opening EU negotiations



momentum.”

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is to be told by the European Commission to undertake a series of tasks in order to guarantee that it can open membership negotiations with the EU later this year. In a draft paper on the western Balkans, published by the European Commission on March 5, 2008, Macedonia is to be told that the “pace of reforms has, on the whole, been slow during the past two years, there have recently been signs of reforms gaining

- Source: EUobserver | March 3, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/25766/?rk=1>.
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Euro area inflation estimated at 3.2%

Euro area inflation is expected to be 3.2% in February 2008 according to a flash estimate issued by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities. It was 3.2% in January 2008.

- Source: Eurostat | March 3, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the Eurostat website: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_PRD_CAT_PREREL/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2008/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2008_MONTH_03/2-03032008-EN-AP.PDF.
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Western Balkans: enhancing the European perspective

On March 5, 2008 the European Commission adopted new initiatives, and enhanced existing ones to support the political and economic development in the countries of the Western Balkans, thus helping to accelerate their progress on the road towards EU membership.

- Source: European Commission | March 5, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/balkans_communication/index_en.htm.
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Towards visa-free travel



The European Commission is launching a dialogue with each of the Western Balkan countries on visa liberalisation. It will soon propose roadmaps outlining conditions to be met before the visa obligation can be lifted.

- Source: European Commission | March 5, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/142&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.
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NERA to target Irish private security sector

The National Employment Rights Authority (NERA) is shortly to commence the first of its targeted sectoral campaigns for 2008, beginning with the private security industry. The campaign will see focussed activity by NERA's inspectors to ensure that employees are in receipt of their employment rights entitlements and that employers are fulfilling their obligations.

- Source: NERA | March 6, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the NERA website: <http://www.employmentrights.ie/en/aboutnera/latestnewsevents/mainbody,1646,en.html>.
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Enforcement of regulation

Ray Guinan, Member of the PSA, the Irish Private Security Authority, representing private security employers, discussed the enforcement of the legislation and how it is progressing.

- Source: ISIA | March 6, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the ISIA website: http://www.isia.ie/isia/Main/News_PSA_PolicingUpdate.htm.
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Treaty ratification



The Polish Parliament voted on February 28, 2008 to ratify the Treaty of Lisbon through parliamentary procedure rather than a popular referendum, though a date for the vote has not been set. France, Hungary, Malta, Romania and Slovenia have already ratified the Treaty. Ireland is the only Member State to hold a referendum. In Germany, the government and the upper chamber of Parliament have failed to agree procedures to amend the constitution, a precondition for ratification. On March 17, 2008 the Polish opposition, led by former Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski, threatened not to approve the EU's Lisbon Treaty in the country's Parliament unless the ratification bill contains legal guarantees respecting Poland's sovereignty and its constitution as the highest law in the country. According to Mr.

Kaczynski the bill should reaffirm a mechanism allowing countries to block some EU decisions as well as opt-outs secured by Poland, namely an exemption from the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

- Source: European Voice | March 6-12, 2008
- Source: EUobserver | March 17, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/countries/index_en.htm and the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/25842/?rk=1>.

Call for proposals - Responsible competitiveness (ACTION ENT/CIP/08/C/N04500)

The European Commission (DG Enterprise) announced the publication of a call for proposals relating to the co-financing of sectoral initiatives in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility in European industrial sectors. Initiatives must be multi-stakeholder: there must be at least one organisation representing enterprises and one trade union or an NGO in addition to any other types of organisations which might participate.

- Source: European Commission | March 10, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/funding/files/themes_2008/calls_prop.htm.

German constitutional court to decide on EU Treaty complaint

Germany's highest court is to decide upon a complaint brought by a German MP against the EU Treaty. Peter Gauweiler, who hails from the Christian Social Union (CSU) - part of the governing coalition, wants the country's constitutional court to decide on the legality of the Lisbon Treaty, currently undergoing ratification across the 27 EU Member States.

- Source: EUobserver | March 10, 2008
- For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/25810/?rk=1> and the German Focus website: http://www.focus.de/politik/deutschland/karlsruhe_aid_264386.html.

Ireland to hold EU Treaty referendum in June 2008



The Irish government has indicated that the country's highly anticipated referendum on the EU Treaty will take place in the second week of June 2008. According to the Irish Times, the date will probably be Thursday, June 12, 2008. Ireland is the only country to have a referendum on the EU Treaty, meaning that between now and the poll, the government and Irish voters will be carefully watched by both politicians and media from around Europe.

- Source: Irish Times | March 12, 2008
- For further information, please consult the Irish Times website: <http://www.ireland.com/newspaper/ireland/2008/0312/1205104653989.html>.

Belgian Maritime Code gets facelift by 2010

In the course of 2008, the Belgian Maritime Code will receive a thorough facelift. The current Code still dates from the 19th century and is fully outdated. The facelift of the Maritime Code will be one of the largest judicial projects ever to be undertaken in Belgium. The review is planned to be finalised by January 1, 2010.

- Source: Gazet van Antwerpen | March 12, 2008

Tripartite Social Summit on March 13, 2008



On March 13, 2008 the Slovenian Presidency convened a Tripartite Social Summit. The aim of the meeting was to have a discussion with social partners on the following key topics: European social partners' activities (the follow-up to be given to the joint labour market analysis as well as a progress report on reconciliation of professional, private and family life), the implementation of the Lisbon strategy, and the employment and investment opportunities opened by the fight against climate change.

- Source: BusinessEurope | March 13, 2008
- To review the European social partners' report on the reconciliation of professional, private and family life, please consult the BusinessEurope website: <http://212.3.246.117/docs/4/KAOHPBBAKAGHEKLEFGLKFCDCPDBW9DB6769LTE4Q/UNICE/docs/DLS/2008-00393-E.pdf>.

- For further information on the Tripartite Social Summit of March 13, 2008, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=375.
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Croatia handed 2009 target date to conclude EU talks

Commission President José Manuel Barroso presented an ‘indicative timetable’ for concluding EU membership talks with Croatia by November next year, with 2010 as the likely entry date.

- Source: EurActiv | March 14, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/croatia-handed-2009-target-date-conclude-eu-talks/article-170961>.
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Norway’s EU membership ‘not on political agenda’

Norway is unlikely to join the EU in the near future, but will seek increased cooperation on energy and climate goals as well as a closer alignment of its currency with the Euro in the years to come, Norwegian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Elisabeth Walaas, stated in an interview. There is currently no prospect of Norway joining the EU as the issue is simply “not on the political agenda,” Walaas said. Nor is it likely to be in the coming years, she added. Most Norwegians want their country “to stay as a close working partner of the EU,” but “neither politicians nor the public see it as particularly necessary to join tomorrow,” she explained.

- Source: EurActiv | March 14, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/opinion/interview-norway-eu-membership-political-agenda/article-170990>.
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Bulgarian Parliament ratifies EU Treaty



On March 21, 2008 Bulgaria, one of the EU’s most recent Member States, became the sixth country to ratify the EU’s Lisbon Treaty. The document, which aims to revitalise the bloc’s institutions and improve decision-making efficiency, was supported by all government coalition parties, as well as by most opposition parties.

- Source: EUobserver | March 21, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/25863/?rk=1>.
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