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News from the Member Federations | General CoESS news

CoESS and INHES first European Summit on Private Security - December 15, 2008 (Paris, France)



CoESS, with the support of INHES (Institut National des Hautes Etudes de Sécurité), is proud to announce the launch of its first European Summit on Private Security that will take place on Monday, December 15, 2008 at the Ministry of the Interior in Paris, France. The Summit will bring together players from the 24 EU Member States active in the field of private and public security and is being organised in the framework of the French Presidency of the European Union under the auspices of Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, and Michèle Alliot-Marie, Minister of the Interior and Overseas Territories. The Summit has a double ambition: it will take stock of security strategies throughout Europe and will propose major outlines and future missions in the field of security, both at European and at national level. On the occasion of this event, CoESS and INHES will unveil the content of a joint White Paper entitled "Which security for tomorrow's Europe?". Its objective is to bring to the table a unique perspective on the various European security policies.

- ➔ If you wish to attend the CoESS/INHES European Summit on Private Security, please contact the CoESS General Secretariat via e-mail: mva@i-b-s.be or via telephone: +32 2 462 07 73.
- ➔ For further information, please consult the USP website: <http://www.securite-privee.org/la-coess-et-l-inhes-publient-un.html> (French).

European Training Programme for Maritime Security Personnel - ISPS Code

The CoESS Working Committee Maritime Security recently published its manual entitled 'European Training Manual for Maritime Security Personnel - ISPS Code', which is available for download and review on the CoESS website: <http://www.coess.eu/pdf/COESS-ISPSmanual.pdf>. The Training Manual is the ideal tool to provide port facility security personnel with the specialist education they need in order to ensure they are fully compliant with the ISPS Code. But the Working Committee Maritime Security wishes to take this project one step further... In order to turn the Manual into a practical training course, which can easily be implemented at national level, a specific Maritime Security Project Group, consisting of international training experts, is currently developing a full-fledged Train-the-Trainer programme. The Project Group is therefore seeking trainers, appointed at national level, who are willing to attend a three-day Train-the-Trainer course and acquire the necessary skill set in order to train port facility security personnel in their respective countries.

- ➔ We highly welcome the participation of trainers you can identify within your respective national organisations, who will attend the Train-the-Trainer programme in February 2009. For further information, please contact the CoESS General Secretariat via e-mail: lvs@i-b-s.be or via telephone: +32 2 462 07 76.

CEN/PC 384 - November 4, 2008 (Vienna, Austria)

The CEN/PC 384 project is aimed at developing standards for airport, aircraft, airline and airport-related civil aviation security services that are provided on a contractual basis. It specifies requirements for private security companies and their independent branches and/or establishments related to their organisational structure, personnel management and methods of practice, and stipulates quality criteria for the delivery of civil aviation security services. The standard can be used by civil aviation clients for the selection, attribution, awarding and post-contractual reviewing of the most suitable civil aviation security services provider. On November 4, 2008 the first official meeting of the Committee took place at the Austrian Standards Institute in Vienna. Both CoESS and ASSA-I, the Aviation Security Services Association International, corresponding member of CoESS, have acquired liaison status in this project. Hilde De Clerck, Secretary-General of CoESS, was elected Chairperson of the Project Committee.

- ➔ For further information, please consult the CoESS website: http://www.coess.eu/pdf/081104-CEN_Airport_Security.pdf.

SAGMaS Meeting - November 17, 2008 (Brussels)

On November 17, 2008 CoESS actively participated in the SAGMaS (Stakeholder Advisory Group on Maritime Security) meeting that was organised in Brussels. The agenda of this 12th meeting focused on the following topics: preparation for IMO MSC 85 and FAL 35, EPAIC II study (technical specifications), piracy, 11th TCSG meeting in Washington.

EEN Meeting - November 17, 2008 (Brussels)

On November 17, 2008 CoESS actively participated in BusinessEurope's EEN (European Employers' Network) meeting in Brussels. The aim of the meeting was to have a discussion on the European Commission's Consultation regarding the review of the Decision of May 20, 1998 on 'Adapting and promoting the Social Dialogue at community level', which enacted the legal basis and provisions concerning the establishment, representativeness and operation of European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees. Meanwhile, BusinessEurope has published a reply to the European Commission consultation on the European Sectoral Social Dialogue.

- ➔ Source: BusinessEurope | November 14/17, 2008
- ➔ The final reply can be reviewed on the CoESS intranet site: <http://coess.org/intranet/login.php>. Please note that you will have to login to be able to consult the document. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the CoESS General Secretariat.

News from the CoESS Working Committees

CoESS Working Committee Electronic Surveillance - November 26, 2008 (Milan, Italy)

On November 26, 2008 the Working Committee Electronic Surveillance organised a committee meeting in Milan, Italy, in the framework of the Sicurezza Exhibition, which was organised from November 25-28, 2008 in the Fiera Milano premises. The agenda covered the following main topics: overview inventory/database of monitoring connections, follow-up CENELEC Workgroup 14 and the CoESS White Paper on ARCs. The Working Committee was also proud to welcome representatives from the Italian telemonitoring federation, who gave their expert input regarding the structure and specificities of the Italian telemonitoring market, current legislation on telemonitoring and future trends and evolutions and public/private cooperation with public authorities and the police.

- ➔ For further information on the Exhibition, please consult the Sicurezza Exhibition website: <http://www.fieramilanotech.it/?id=MjQ0LTM1MjUtMzUyMC1FTkcg&>.
- ➔ The minutes of the Working Committee Electronic Surveillance of November 26, 2008 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 consult the document. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the CoESS General Secretariat.

CoESS Working Committee Social Dialogue - Plenary Meeting - November 26, 2008 (Brussels)

On November 26, 2008 a European Sectoral Social Dialogue Plenary Meeting was organised between the social partners of the private security sector, presided by the European Commission. The agenda focused on various sectoral Social Dialogue joint projects that are currently being conducted: reflections on the CoESS/UNI-Europa 5th Private Security Conference of October 15-16, 2008, Modernisation of Work (MOWO) project, Social Considerations in Public Procurement (Best Value), health and safety dossiers (third party violence, work-related stress), CIT, OSHA campaign on risk assessment, Social Dialogue in Eastern-European countries.

- ➔ The minutes of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Plenary Meeting of November 26, 2008 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 consult the document. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the CoESS General Secretariat.

News from ASSA-I (Aviation Security Services Association International)

Demand at UK airports down 2% in Q3 - four Central European markets still reporting double-digit growth

Passenger demand at airports across the UK has been down in each month of the third quarter according to the latest CAA statistics. Traffic was down 1.1% in July 2008, down 1.0% in August 2008 and down 4.1% in September 2008.

- Source: AnnaAero | November 7, 2008
- For further information, please consult the AnnaAero website: <http://www.anna.aero/2008/11/07/demand-at-uk-airports-down-2-in-q3-four-central-european-markets-still-reporting-double-digit-growth/>.

Alitalia bidders cleared from repaying state aid



The European Commission approved a takeover of Alitalia by a consortium of Italian private investors, freeing them from having to repay some € 300 million of state aid awarded by the Italian government to the ailing air carrier. The EU executive's decision comes after the Italian government helped to put in place a consortium that is only bidding for the prime assets of Alitalia. The CAI consortium, led by Piaggio chief Roberto Colaninno, was only interested in Alitalia on the condition that it did not have to pay back state aid loans.

- Source: European Commission | November 13, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1692&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

IACA calls for Member States to correct the European Parliament's punitive ETS design

Following a robust and frank discussion on the inclusion of aviation in to the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) at its Annual General Meeting on November 13, 2008 in Brussels, IACA, the International Air Carrier Association, urges European Member States to correct the design of the scheme voted for by the European Parliament. In particular, the association called for an open carbon trading system for aviation with the existing ETS market.

- Source: IACA | November 13, 2008
- For further information, please consult the IACA website: <http://www.iaca.be/index.cfm?D3BEB5A3-BDBE-2776-013C-FDE5D2BD3E00>.

Air traffic capacity crunch in sight despite falling demand

While the current economic slowdown continues to take its toll on air traffic, the EU will nevertheless face an airport capacity crunch in the near future, experts say. "In tandem with airlines, airports are also being hit, as fewer passengers translates into declining revenues and their capital intensive nature exposes them to the current paralysis in financial markets," said Olivier Jankovec, Director General of Airports Council International (ACI Europe) commenting on the latest air traffic report. The latest figures indeed show a "significant" decrease in both passenger and freight traffic in September 2008 in comparison to September 2007. Passenger traffic in European airports decreased by 3.3% while overall freight traffic fell 7.2%.

- Source: ACI Europe | November 13, 2008
- For further information, please consult the ACI website: http://www.aci-europe.org/upload/08_11_12%20European%20passenger%20traffic%20-%20Sept%202008%20PRESS%20RELEASE.pdf.

Europe's airlines: no emissions trading without the single sky

The heads of Europe's 35 most important scheduled airlines have called upon national governments and the European institutions to better recognise the value of the airline industry. In this perspective, they do not want an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) without a Single European Sky.

- Source: Air Transport News | November 17, 2008
- For further information, please consult the Air Transport News website: <http://www.airtransportnews.aero/article.pl?mcateg=&id=14528>.

Aviation security will continue to top the business agenda in 2009

The US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will turn its attention to stricter security for international inbound air cargo as it moves to implement 100% piece level screening of cargo transported on passenger aircraft in the United States, Edward J. Kelly, General Manager Cargo, TSA, told delegates attending the TIACA (The International Air Cargo Association) Air Cargo Forum and

Exposition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The TSA's first milestone of 50% piece level screening for cargo carried on passenger aircraft comes into force in February 2009. It will rise to 100% in August 2010 as part of the US Department of Homeland Security's mandate to provide a level of security for cargo commensurate to that for passenger baggage. These deadlines are congressionally-imposed and not flexible, he said.

- Source: The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA) | November 17, 2008
- For further information, please consult the TIACA website:
<http://www.tiaca.org/tiaca/NewsBot.asp?MODE=VIEW&ID=3209&SnID=1491136989>.

Obama and aviation policy: next moves for airlines, airports and airways

President Obama has a once in a generation opportunity to take some major initiatives in the aviation sector. Internationally, that includes most importantly completing the Open Skies process initiated by his predecessor. With courage and a willingness to pursue what every objective observer knows to be necessary, the new President can achieve the resurrection of the US airline industry.

- Source: Air Transport News | November 19, 2008
- For further information, please consult the Air Transport News website:
<http://www.airtransportnews.aero/analysis.pl?acateg=experts>.

Bodyscanners dropped

On November 18, 2008 the European Commission dropped clauses regulating the use of bodyscanners in European airports from its proposal on aviation safety. The use of bodyscanners had stirred up opposition from MEPs. In the absence of EU-wide rules, Member State can choose whether or not to use the technology.

- Source: European Voice | November 20, 2008

News from the European Union

European maritime surveillance needs greater integration

In a report published on November 3, 2008 the European Commission takes the first step towards establishing a comprehensive strategy for integrated maritime surveillance for Europe. The report, in the form of a Commission Staff Working Document, describes the current state of play as regards the surveillance, monitoring, tracking, identification and reporting systems put in place by EU Member States and EU Agencies. It also identifies the next steps to be undertaken and the challenges to be resolved in order to achieve an integrated maritime surveillance network for Europe.

- Source: European Commission | November 3, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1622&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.
- To review the Commission Staff Working Document, please consult the European Commission website:
http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/pdf/maritime_surveillance_non_paper.pdf.

EU mulls sustainable Baltic Sea strategy

On November 3, 2008 the European Commission launched a public consultation on a future EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). The strategy will address environmental pollution, increased maritime transport and protection of critical infrastructures. The consultation period runs to December 31, 2008.

- Source: European Commission | November 3, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1619&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
and <http://eu.baltic.net/>.
- To review the consultation document, please consult the European Commission website:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/consultation/baltic/consultation_en.htm.

Barcelona to host Mediterranean Union headquarters



The headquarters of the recently launched Union for the Mediterranean will be located in Barcelona, Spain, foreign ministers of the countries participating in the project decided on November 4, 2008. The Secretariat will be presided over by a single Secretary-General - yet to be appointed - and five deputy Secretaries from Greece, Italy, Malta, Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

- ➔ Source: Reuters | November 4, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the Reuters website: <http://africa.reuters.com/wire/news/usnL4442060.html>.

EU grants Turkey 'market economy' status

On November 4, 2008 the European Commission painted a mixed picture of Turkey's EU prospects, saying it had performed well in the economic field, but pressing for more and faster progress on the rule of law and political freedoms. Meanwhile, MEPs questioned the Turkish government's political will to continue the reform process. Presenting the Commission's annual progress reports on EU candidate countries to MEPs, enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn criticised the "limited" scope of recent reform and called for a more constructive approach to the Cyprus question.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | November 4, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/08/582&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> and http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/press_corner/key_documents/reports_nov_2008/turkey_progress_report_en.pdf.

AFET draft report - European Security Strategy and ESDP

On November 5, 2008 the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs published a draft report regarding the 'European Security Strategy and ESDP'.

- ➔ Source: AFET | November 5, 2008
- ➔ To review the draft report, please consult the AFET website: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/pr/751/751497/751497en.pdf.

Employers of illegal migrants will face heavy sanctions

Employers of illegal immigrants should be punished rather than the workers themselves, according to a Parliament report drafted by Italian MEP Claudio Fava (PES), to be presented to the full assembly for approval in December 2008. The document, which was adopted by a clear majority of MEPs in the European Parliament's civil liberties committee on November 4, 2008, will guide negotiations with EU Member States on a proposed Directive to sanction employers of illegal migrants.

- ➔ Source: European Parliament | November 5, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Parliament website: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/018-41242-308-11-45-902-20081103IPR41241-03-11-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm and http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/pr/732/732431/732431en.pdf.

Europe awaits 'new deal' from President Obama



Europe has welcomed the victory of the democratic candidate in the US presidential elections, with the French leader Nicolas Sarkozy praising the choice of "change" and "optimism" by the American voters, while Brussels urged for a "new deal in a new world" under the leadership of Barack Obama. "This is a time for a renewed commitment between Europe and the United States of America," European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said in a statement released on November 5, 2008, minutes before Senator Obama appeared to meet his supporters in his hometown of Chicago after his victory was confirmed.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | November 5, 2008

- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/08/583&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

Acting now for a better Europe - European Commission 2009 work programme

On November 5, 2008 the European Commission adopted its 2009 Legislative and Work Programme which announces the main initiatives it intends to present next year. In 2009, the Commission will follow up on the initiatives launched in recent weeks to address the financial crisis and to set out a European framework to address the economic downturn. At the same time, the Commission will use the final year of its mandate to complete the work already under way.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | November 5, 2008
- ➔ To review the 2009 Legislative and Work Programme, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/clwp2009_en.pdf.
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1635&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

EU plans stronger ties with Eastern European neighbours

The European Commission is working on an 'Eastern Partnership' with Ukraine, Georgia and other countries lying on its eastern borders, diplomats and EU officials announced. Ukraine wants an 'Eastern European Partnership', modelled on the defunct Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, as a precursor to future EU membership.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | November 7, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/policy_en.htm.

EU planning to take over Bosnia supervision



Increasingly concerned over stalling progress in Bosnia and "inflammatory rhetoric" used by its politicians, EU foreign ministers are expected to adopt on November 10, 2008 a paper suggesting the bloc should be prepared to take over Bosnia's international supervision next year. The seven-point paper drafted by EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and enlargement Commissioner Olli stresses that "a stronger engagement of the EU is today more essential than ever before."

- ➔ Source: Reuters | November 7, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the Reuters website: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Europe/EU_proposes_taking_over_supervision_of_Bosnia_in_2009/articleshow/3682847.cms.

Single EU defence 'not for all'

It is impossible to conceive 'Defence Europe' as a project for all 27 Member States because they do not all share "similar ambitions", French Defence Minister Hervé Morin told EurActiv France in an exclusive interview. Nevertheless, there are grounds for increased cooperation between particular Member States. "Our idea is to put a number of proposals on the table, in the knowledge that some will be well-received by a limited number of countries rather than all 26," noted Morin, underlining that this was how Europe was built in many other policy areas. Morin is confident, nonetheless, that agreement can be reached among the 27 to raise military and public awareness of the need for a European defence capacity or "military Erasmus". The project is expected to focus on military training, fostering exchange between young European officers on coordinating evacuations of European nationals and on surveillance of European maritime areas.

- ➔ Source: EurActiv | November 11, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/security/interview-single-eu-defence/article-177062> and <http://www.euractiv.fr/presidence-francaise-ue/interview/27-peuvent-avoir-meme-ambition-europe-defense-herve-morin-001192>.

Facilities Management Ireland Conference & Exhibition - February 17-18, 2009 (Dublin, Ireland)



Facilities Management Ireland will organise its first Conference & Exhibition at the RDS, Dublin, Ireland on February 17-18, 2009. Facilities Management Ireland will address and deal with the detailed and complex issues associated with the functionality of the built environment achieved via the integration of people, technology design, procedure and practice. Entry to the Conference & Exhibition is free.

- ➔ Source: Facilities Management Ireland | November 13, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the Facilities Management Ireland website: <http://www.f mireland.com/Conference.asp>.

Sarkozy wants new EU-US-Russia security accord



French President Nicolas Sarkozy proposed a new security and defence arrangement between the EU, Russia and the US to be agreed at a summit mid 2009, calling both on Moscow and Washington to refrain from deploying missiles until that date. President Dmitri Medvedev got French support on security and defence matters, despite not having fully complied with the ceasefire agreement in Georgia.

- ➔ Source: EUobserver | November 14, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/27113/?rk=1>.

Eurozone to enter first ever recession

The global financial crisis is taking an increasingly heavy toll on Europe's economy as fresh economic projections show that the 15-strong Euro area has entered recession, its first in the structure's history. The Eurozone's economy contracted by 0.2% between July and September 2008, following a 0.2% decline during the second quarter of this year. Two consecutive quarters of contraction amounts to a definition of recession.

- ➔ Source: BBC News | November 14, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the BBC News website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/7729018.stm>.

MISSOC Analysis 2008 'Social protection: aspects of flexicurity and active inclusion'

The interplay between economic competitiveness and social cohesion is an important strand of the renewed Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs. It reflects the Union's ambition to promote socially inclusive economies that generate more and better jobs, whilst at the same time providing a safety net for the underprivileged and those at the margins of the labour market. Within this context, Member States are encouraged to develop both flexicurity policies and active inclusion policies. The MISSOC (Mutual Information System on Social Protection (European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities)) analysis reveals that Member States certainly introduced changes in their social security systems that, up to a certain extent, support the Union's objectives to enhance flexibility and security in the labour market.

- ➔ Source: MISSOC | November 15, 2008
- ➔ To review the MISSOC analysis, please consult the MISSOC website: http://www.missoc.org/MISSOCBETA/INTRANET/MISSOCANALYSIS/2008/2008_AnalysisI_EN.pdf.

SIA publishes Facts & Figures

On November 17, 2008 the Irish Security Industry Authority (SIA) published some key figures about its work. Regulation by the SIA has led to a more professional private security industry, which is needed to help protect people, property and assets.

- ➔ Source: SIA | November 17, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the SIA website: http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/about_sia/news/nr_081117.htm.

Iceland drafts plan for 2011 EU entry

Iceland's Prime Minister announced the set-up of commission to investigate joining the European Union. An initial plan has already been drafted by the country's foreign ministry that would see a membership application made in early 2009, aiming for entry some time in 2011, according to a report in the Financial Times.

- Source: Financial Times | November 17, 2008
- For further information, please consult the Financial Times website: http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/5a29ac18-b28f-11dd-bbc9-0000779fd18c.html?ncklick_check=1.

Only a third of Croats enthusiastic for EU membership



Citizens from the western Balkans have mixed feelings regarding their countries' EU future, with Kosovars and Albanians being particularly optimistic, but barely a third of Croats consider EU accession to be "a good thing," a new survey shows. While those living in Kosovo and Albania back their countries' EU integration almost unanimously (89% and 83% respectively), only 29% of Croats think Zagreb's EU membership would be beneficial, while 26% say it would be a bad thing, according to a Gallup survey.

- Source: GALLUP | November 17, 2008
- For further information, please consult the GALLUP website: http://www.gallup-europe.be/downloads/GBM%20press%20release_EN_final.pdf and <http://balkan-monitor.eu/>.

Twentieth edition of the Employment in Europe Annual Report

The Employment in Europe Annual Report 2008, as in previous years, addresses topics that are high on the European Union's employment policy agenda. It gives a comprehensive overview of the employment situation in the EU, as well as an analysis of key labour market issues, including immigration, post-enlargement intra-EU labour mobility, quality of work and the link between education and employment.

- Source: European Commission | November 18, 2008
- To review the Employment in Europe Annual Report 2008, please consult the European Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=119&langId=en>.

Report on the impact of free movement of workers following EU enlargement

Following EU enlargements in 2004 and 2007, the European Commission presents a report on the functioning of transitional arrangements on the free movement of workers from the new Member States. This report will act as a basis for the Council to examine the second phase of transitional arrangements for Bulgaria and Romania starting on January 1, 2009 but also for a review of the transitional arrangements following the 2004 enlargement.

- Source: European Commission | November 18, 2008
- To review the Communication, please consult the European Commission website: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2006:0048:FIN:EN:PDF>.
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=508&langId=en>.

Parliament wants Commission to draft equal pay legislation

MEPs have overwhelmingly called on the European Commission to ensure that women are paid as much as men at work. They complain that the existing legislation - now in place for some 30 years - is well out of date, and want the EU to ensure employers stop discriminating - possibly under the threat of fines. The European Parliament adopted a report (590 votes to 23 against) requesting the EU's executive to draft a legislative proposal revising the current law on equal pay.

- Source: European Parliament | November 18, 2008

- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Parliament website:
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/014-42149-322-11-47-902-20081117IPR42147-17-11-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm.

Jacques Barrot: The Roadmap for European Security - how far, how fast?

On November 10-11, 2008 Jacques Barrot, Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security, delivered a speech in Berlin at the '7th Congress on European Security and Defence' regarding 'The Roadmap for European Security - how far, how fast?'

- ➔ Source: SecurityCommunity | November 18, 2008
- ➔ To listen to this speech (live feed), please consult the SecurityCommunity website:
<http://www.securitycommunity.eu/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=98>.

The standard bearer

Two and a half years into licensing and regulation of the Irish private security industry, the head of the Private Security Authority (PSA), Geraldine Larkin, talks to SecureView about the state of the industry and where she sees it going.

- ➔ Source: SecureView | November 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the SecureView November 2008 issue:
http://www.isia.ie/isia/Files/SecureView_Mag0908.pdf.

Divided Parliament approves EU Blue Card system

Despite divisions among political groups, the European Parliament on November 20, 2008 backed the EU's 'Blue Card' scheme aimed at attracting high-skilled immigrants to Europe. Loosely based on the US' 'Green Card' system, the scheme is designed to address Europe's looming demographic crisis and shortage of high-skilled workers. The scheme sets minimum salary requirements at 1.7 times the national average wage.

- ➔ Source: European Parliament | November 20, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Parliament website:
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/018-42218-322-11-47-902-20081117IPR42214-17-11-2008-2008-true/default_en.htm.

Swedes approve Lisbon Treaty as Czechs, Irish squabble

The Swedish Parliament's approval of the EU Reform Treaty on November 20, 2008 has further increased the pressure on the EU's two odd men out, the Czech Republic and Ireland, to come up with a rescue plan for the text. 243 Swedish MPs voted in favour and 39 against the text, with 12 abstentions, raising the number of EU countries that ratified it to 23.

- ➔ Source: EurActiv | November 20, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu/swedes-approve-lisbon-treaty-czechs-irish-squabble/article-177403>.

UK cuts VAT to jumpstart economy

On November 24, 2008 the British government was set to announce a cut of 2.5 percent to its value-added tax as part of a broader stimulus package aimed at jumpstarting the economy. The British VAT cut from 17.5 to 15 percent, the lowest rate allowed by EU law, was to be presented by finance Minister Alistair Darling as part of the pre-budget report aimed at increasing consumer spending and thus pumping more money into the economy. But Conservative leader David Cameron has warned the government's plans will lead to a future "tax bombshell", with UK's external borrowing skyrocketing to record levels of over € 118 billion.

- ➔ Source: The Telegraph | November 23, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the The Telegraph website:
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/financetopics/budget/3509973/Pre-Budget-report-Supertax-planned-for-top-earners.html>.

Services Directive likely to be delayed across EU

Eight EU Member States are unlikely to transpose the Services Directive into national law by the deadline of December 28, 2009, according to a new survey. Business federations in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Slovenia and Spain said they doubted that their governments would implement the text on time, revealed the study.

- ➔ Source: BusinessEurope | November 24, 2008
- ➔ To review the report, please consult the BusinessEurope website:
<http://www.buinessurope.eu/DocShareNoFrame/docs/1/FFLMOLIDOJIFGLCLGNMGPOAKPDBW9DPYT19LTE4Q/UNICE/docs/DLS/2008-02275-E.pdf>.

Irish Parliament to debate second Lisbon referendum



An Irish Parliamentary committee is to debate a report arguing that a second referendum on the EU's Lisbon Treaty is legally possible. The draft report was discussed in a private session by the Subcommittee on Ireland's Future in the EU and was presented to the joint Committee on European Affairs on November 27, 2008.

- ➔ Source: Irish Times | November 26, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the Irish Times website:
<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2008/1126/1227486583383.html>.

Czech court green-lights EU Lisbon Treaty

The Czech constitutional court has unanimously ruled that the disputed parts of the Lisbon Treaty are in line with the Czech Constitution but the judges admitted they did not analyse the Treaty as a whole, sparking speculation that the issue could be raised again by its critics in the country.

- ➔ Source: EUobserver | November 26, 2008
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/27183/?rk=1>.

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