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News from the Member Federations | General CoESS news

Safety & Security Exhibition 2009 - Amsterdam



On April 21, 2009 VvBO (Association of Security Organisations), to which VPB, the Dutch private security association, member of CoESS, is associated, will co-organise the Safety & Security Exhibition 2009 in Amsterdam (RAI). This national exhibition is the ideal meeting point for safety and security stakeholders alike.

- Source: VPB Checklist | January 2009
- For further information, please consult the Safety & Security 2009 Exhibition website: http://www.safetysecurityamsterdam.nl/ssa2009/n/editablepage/detail/English_info.

VPB quality mark private investigation agencies



VPB developed a quality mark for private investigation agencies, based on its security quality mark, which has meanwhile become compulsory for all VPB members. The main difference is its link to the privacy code of conduct for private investigation agencies. In future, all VPB members delivering private investigation services will have to achieve the private security agencies quality mark.

- Source: VPB Checklist | January 2009
- For further information, please consult the VPB website: www.vpb.nl.

Forum Liaison - February 20, 2009 (Brussels)

CoESS actively participated in the last Forum Liaison meeting, during which the following topics were discussed: update on the ongoing review of European Sectoral Social Dialogue and functioning of European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees, evaluation and impact assessment of Community policies (the new Commission guidelines on impact assessment and involvement of social partners), European Economic Recovery Plan and employment policies in the context of the current financial and economic crisis and sectoral studies on emerging competencies and economic activities in the EU and sectoral councils on employment and skills. The European Commission also highlighted some informational points regarding the Industrial Relations Report 2008, 2008 and 2009 calls for proposals under Social Dialogue budget lines, Gender Pay Gap campaign and European cross-industry Social Dialogue joint working programme 2009-2010.

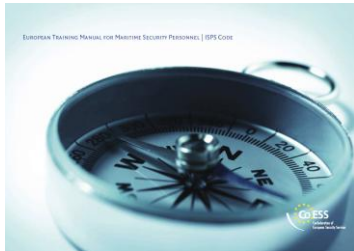
News from the CoESS Working Committees

CoESS Working Committee Cohesion - February 5, 2008 (Vienna, Austria)

On February 5, 2009 the Working Committee Cohesion organised a meeting in Vienna, Austria. The following topics were tabled: Vienna Roadmap Chapter II project, results and feedback from the Lithuania Conference of January 23, 2009, presentation of country reports and objectives for the next Working Committee meeting.

- The minutes of the Working Committee Cohesion of February 5, 2009 are 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.

Maritime Train-the-Trainer Seminar (ISPS Code) - February 17-19, 2009 (Rotterdam, The Netherlands)



In order to turn the 'European Training Manual for Maritime Security Personnel - ISPS Code' into a practical training course, a full-fledged Train-the-Trainer programme was developed by a specific Maritime Security Project Group. The Train-the-Trainer Seminar was organised from February 17-19, 2009 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. It gathered some 20 participants from 11 countries and was a resounding success! For further information and/or materials, please do not hesitate to contact the CoESS General Secretariat.

CoESS-ESTA Working Committee Cash-in-Transit - February 25, 2009 (Brussels)

On February 25, 2009 the joint CoESS/ESTA Working Committee CIT organised a meeting in Brussels. The main agenda item was the current state of play of cross-border CIT harmonisation, the draft EU Regulation that is currently in process and next steps. Other topics that were tabled: ongoing consultations and the ESTA 2009 Conference in Rome, Italy.

- ➔ For further information on the ESTA 2009 Conference in Rome, Italy, and/or to register, please consult the ESTA website: <http://www.esta-cash.eu/en/events/index.html>.
- ➔ The minutes of the CoESS/ESTA Working Committee CIT of February 25, 2009 are 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)

Common European air operation rules in reach

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) published proposed implementing rules for air operations of community operators, including the corresponding acceptable means of compliance (AMC) and guidance material (GM) as well as certification specifications (CS) for flight time limitations. Following the Agency's principles of broad consultation and transparency, interested persons worldwide now have the possibility to comment on this Notice of Proposed Amendment (NPA 2009-02) by using the Agency's web-based Comment Response Tool (CRT). The comment period ends on May 30, 2009. The draft implementing rules are developed following the Agency's extension of responsibilities to rulemaking in the fields of air operations, flight crew licensing and third country operators. With the present draft rules, EASA establishes high-level safety objectives binding to all European operators.

- ➔ Source: European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) | January 30, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EASA website: http://www.easa.europa.eu/ws_prod/r/r_npa.php.

European Commission proposes to open negotiations on a Common aviation area with Georgia

On January 30, 2009, the European Commission proposed to the Council Directives for negotiation for a comprehensive aviation agreement with Georgia. The aim is to establish a Common aviation area between the EU and Georgia, which will remove market restrictions and associate Georgia to the EU internal aviation market.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | January 30, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air/international_aviation/country_index/georgia_en.htm.

Airport Cities World Conference & Exhibition - April 27-29, 2009 (Athens, Greece)

The Airport Cities World Conference & Exhibition takes place on April 27-29, 2009 in Athens, Greece, hosted by Athens International Airport. The Conference will gather leading experts from across the globe to explore airport city concepts and to discuss new developments in the global airport cities context.

- Source: Airport Cities World Conference & Exhibition | February 2, 2009
- For further information, please consult the Airport Cities World Conference & Exhibition website: http://www.insightgrp.co.uk/Conference_ACE-ATHENS.html.

Airlines prepare for EU carbon trading scheme

A Directive incorporating aviation into the EU emissions trading scheme (ETS) entered into force on February 2, 2009, obliging EU Member States to put in place appropriate legislation within a year. Under the new Directive, all flights landing or taking off from EU airports will have to buy CO2 allowances under the bloc's cap-and-trade system. Trading officially begins in 2012, while Member States have a year to transpose the Directive into national law. Furthermore, each carrier operating flights to or from the EU will now have to submit a plan describing how it intends to monitor and report on emissions.

- Source: European Commission | February 2, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:008:0003:0021:EN:PDF> and http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/aviation_en.htm.

Single European Sky II

On February 19, 2009, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) held a joint presentation on the EESC opinion and the European Parliament's report on the Single European Sky II package and the reform of the European Aviation Safety Agency.

- Source: European Commission | February 9, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://www.eesc.europa.eu/sections/ten/index_en.asp?id=2300003tenen and <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=CES/09/20&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

Survey reveals marginal growth at Europe's airports in 2008

Anna.aero's unique analysis of 223 European airports in 2008 (with at least 100,000 annual passengers) shows that 116 airports reported traffic growth, while 107 reported a fall in passenger numbers. Across all 223 airports, passenger numbers rose by about 0.2% to 1.29 billion. An analysis of the fastest growing airports below 10 million annual passengers reveals that the fastest growing airports still tend to be associated with the development of low-cost services. In the greater than 10 million passengers category, which consists of 33 airports for which complete annual data was available, Berlin Tegel reported the best growth of 8.5%, followed by Rome FCO (+ 6.9%), Zurich (+ 6.8%), Geneva (+ 5.7%) and Vienna (+ 5.2%).

- Source: anna.aero | February 13, 2009
- To review the full results of the survey, please consult the anna.aero website: <http://www.anna.aero/european-airport-traffic-trends/>.

European airports reassured by new EU Directive on charges, but significant concerns remain

As the ink dries on the final text of the new EU Directive on airport charges, confirmed by the Council on February 19, 2009, ACI Europe, the voice of Europe's airports, welcomed the Commission's use of ICAO guidelines and recognition of the role of small, regional airports in the EU. The new Directive will be the template for setting of airport charges within the EU27 and shall apply to all European civil aviation airports receiving more than 5 million passengers per year, along with the largest airports in each Member State. March 2011 is the final deadline for transposition at national level. ACI, however, remains concerned that the new Directive fails to take into account market reality and growing airport competition. Furthermore, the new Directive also fails to recognise that airports need to be incentivised to finance and develop new infrastructure.

- Source: ACI Europe | February 19, 2009
- For further information, please consult the ACI Europe website: http://www.aci-europe.org/upload/09_02_19%20%20EU%20Directive%20on%20Airport%20Charges%20PRESS%20RELEASE.pdf.

2008 review

On February 22, 2009 Air Transport News officially published its 2008 review covering the most remarkable events and changes affecting the aviation industry in 2008.

- Source: Air Transport News | February 22, 2009
- For further information, please consult the Air Transport News website: <http://www.airtransportnews.aero/content/c644.pdf>.

EU signs civil aviation agreement with Pakistan

On February 24, 2009 the EU and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan signed an aviation agreement which will restore legal certainty regarding bilateral air services agreements between Pakistan and EU Member States.

- Source: European Commission | February 24, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/309&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=nl>.

News from the European Union

Smoother sailing for ships travelling between EU ports



For years, lorries and freight trains have enjoyed border-free travel in the EU. Not so for ships. Even if they sail directly from one EU country to another, ships still have to go through customs, a costly process that causes major delays. Now the European Commission has put forth a plan to simplify the process. It includes several legislative measures to cut red tape and recommendations to reduce administrative fees. Shipping companies are subject to various checks for compliance with complex rules on taxes, health, safety and security. The plan recommends that national governments simplify these border controls.

- Source: European Commission | January 21, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/news/transport/090121_1_en.htm.

Iceland could be EU member by 2011



The small North Atlantic state of Iceland could become a member of the EU within the next two years if it takes the step of formally applying for membership of the 27-nation bloc. EU Enlargement Commissioner, Olli Rehn, indicated that the EU would look favourably upon a membership application and would be prepared to make it an EU member within record time, probably at the same time as Croatia in 2011.

- Source: The Guardian | January 30, 2009
- For further information, please consult the The Guardian website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jan/30/iceland-join-eu>.

Support in Ireland growing for Lisbon Treaty

Most Irish citizens expect that any second referendum on the European Union's reform Treaty would be passed, a national poll showed on January 30, 2009. Nearly 60% of respondents said Ireland would pass a second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty later this year, and 61% said they were concerned about the country losing its status in Europe.

- Source: Reuters | February 2, 2009
- For further information, please consult the Reuters website: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUKTRE50T62520090130>.

EU seeks to punish employers of illegal immigrants



On February 4, 2009 the European Parliament is poised to vote in favour of new legislation aimed at punishing employers who hire illegal immigrants, shifting the responsibility to companies. The long-standing EU debate over legislation on illegal immigrants is linked to a number of other immigration issues, notably the 'Return Directive' and the European 'Blue Card' scheme to encourage legal immigration. Under the new legislation, the onus would fall on employers, who are required to inspect their workers' documents to ensure that their employees legally reside in the EU. Furthermore, the sanctions provided in the Directive - fines and possible criminal penalties - would apply to employers rather than to the illegal immigrants themselves.

- ➔ Source: European Parliament | February 4, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Parliament website: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/018-47948-033-02-06-902-20090202STO47913-2009-02-02-2009/default_en.htm and http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/018-41207-308-11-45-902-20081103STO41194-2008-03-11-2008/default_en.htm.

Job losses a real possibility for security

"The security industry, which provides employment to over 25,000 people, is facing meltdown with the threat of major job losses," warns the Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA). Mr. Barry Brady, Executive Director of ISIA, spoke on behalf of the membership: "Our members recognise that they are operating in a national economy which is struggling to survive and that clients are under severe pressure. Like every other sector of this economy, the security industry is not immune. Many of our members are themselves fighting for survival with rising costs, tighter banking restrictions which are causing cash flow difficulties, and increased levels of bad and irrecoverable debt. However, under the terms of an Employment Regulation Order (ERO), security companies have an additional cost to absorb in 2009. The ERO states that security companies must provide their employees with an approximate 10% wage increase. This is an obligatory increase and is non-negotiable which, given the current economic situation, is obviously adding an additional burden to employers."

- ➔ Source: Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA) | February 5, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the ISIA website: http://www.isia.ie/isia/Main/2009_News_JobLosses.htm.

Serbia told to hold back EU application

After meeting Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Ivica Dačić on February 9, 2009, Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn advised Belgrade not to rush with its formal application for EU membership, admitting that the political climate is not good for enlargement. With the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) not yet having entered into force, the European Commission considers membership application as premature, the Commissioner explained.

- ➔ Source: EurActiv | February 10, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/serbia-told-hold-back-eu-application/article-179287>.

Switzerland opens to Bulgarian and Romanian workers



On February 8, 2009 Swiss voters overwhelmingly approved the extension of the free movement of workers to Bulgarian and Romanian citizens. According to official figures, 59.6 percent of voters were in favour.

- ➔ Source: Financial Times | February 8, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the Financial Times website: http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/5af52ef2-f613-11dd-a9ed-0000779fd2ac.html?nclick_check=1.

German judges express scepticism about EU Treaty



Several of the eight judges in charge of examining whether the EU's Lisbon Treaty is compatible with the German constitution expressed scepticism about the constitutional effects of further EU integration. According to reports in the German media, the debate centred on criminal law and the extent to which it should be the preserve of Member States rather than the EU.

- ➔ Source: Financial Times Deutschland | February 11, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the Financial Times Deutschland website: <http://www.ftd.de/politik/europa/:Verhandlungsbeginn-Karlsruhe-stellt-Lissabon-Vertrag-infrage/472793.html>.

Irish government considers holding Lisbon revote in June 2009

The Irish government is seriously considering the possibility of moving a second referendum on the EU's Lisbon Treaty forward from October to June 2009 to coincide with this year's European elections. If confirmed, the new date would mark a significant change of direction for Irish Taoiseach Brian Cowen, who indicated at an EU summit in December 2008 that the second referendum would most likely take place in late 2009.

- ➔ Source: EurActiv | February 13, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu/irish-government-considers-holding-lisbon-revote-june/article-179443>.

STORK project - promotion of interoperable electronic identity processes across the EU27

Electronic identity is being used for more and more applications in Europe (health, business, travel), but at present, there is no systematic harmonisation between national systems. This could change if a recently launched EU-funded project known as STORK (Secure Identity Across Borders Linked) attains its research objectives. STORK's objective is to design within three years a common interoperable network of national portals. This in turn will produce EU-wide interoperability of electronic identity. Project results are expected by summer 2011.

- ➔ Source: STORK website | February 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the STORK website: <http://www.eid-stork.eu/>.

Monthly monitoring report on EU employment and social situation



The European Commission is proud to present the first report in a new series of monthly analyses to monitor the EU employment situation. Making use of a wide range of sources of timely data, the monitor presents an update of the labour market situation and restructuring trends, set against a background of economic and sectoral developments. These reports are intended to inform the policy debate at EU and Member State level and provide guidance to support the development of further appropriate policy responses to the crisis.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | February 17, 2009
- ➔ For further information and to review the first report, please consult the European Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=457>.

How to reconcile RFID with consumer privacy rights?

Divergence between industry's hunger to deploy radio frequency identification (RFID) and enforcement of the EU's stringent data privacy protection rules now threaten to push back the European Commission's timetable for adopting a February 2008 draft recommendation on the use of RFID chips in public spaces. The planned deadline of April 2009 for adoption of the draft risks slipping if a compromise cannot be found.

- Source: European Commission | February 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/docs/high_level_group/draft_recommendation_rfid.pdf and http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/rfid/index_en.htm.

Swedes to prioritise transparency at EU helm

On February 17, 2009 the European Ombudsman expressed his conviction that the incoming Swedish EU Presidency would make progress on making the EU more transparent and accountable to its citizens. Meanwhile, MEPs insisted that “no legislative documents should be kept secret” under a reformed access to documents policy.

- Source: European Ombudsman | February 17, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Parliament website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5632032>.

Czech Lower House approves Lisbon Treaty

On February 18, 2009 the Lower House of the Czech Parliament approved the European Union’s Lisbon Treaty, taking a key but not final step towards ratifying the text. The Treaty must still be ratified in the Upper House, the Senate, where it may sit for weeks or even months as many right-wing senators are demanding that the country first ratifies a plan to host a US missile defence shield base.

- Source: ČeskéNoviny | February 18, 2009
- For further information, please consult the ČeskéNoviny website: <http://www.ceskenoviny.cz/news/zpravy/czech-lower-house-passes-lisbon-treaty/361057>.

Commission outlines policy priorities for 2010

On February 18, 2009 the European Commission presented its Annual Policy Strategy which paves the way for establishing a policy agenda for 2010. While ensuring the continuity of the Institution’s strategic planning system, the Annual Policy Strategy takes account of the fact that a new Commission will be in office in 2010. It will be for the next Commission to review the policy priorities at the start of its mandate, and to turn them into an operational programme when it draws up its Work Programme for 2010. The impact of the current financial and economic crisis is likely to be significant both in 2009 and in 2010 and can be expected to remain the focus of the Commission’s work.

- Source: European Commission | February 18, 2009
- To review the Commission’s Annual Policy Strategy, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/synthesis/doc/en_act_part1v6.pdf.

Staff working document on terrorism and fundamental rights in the EU

The European Commission issued a staff working document entitled ‘Synthesis of the replies from the Member States to the questionnaire on criminal law, administrative law/procedural law and fundamental rights in the fight against terrorism’. The paper draws together existing information from EU Member States on counter-terrorism legislation and fundamental rights.

- Source: European Commission | February 19, 2009
- To review the staff working document, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/terrorism/docs/sec_2009_225_en.pdf.

Five years of an enlarged EU has brought lasting benefits



The recent enlargements of the European Union were a milestone in the process of unifying Europe and have brought benefits to citizens throughout the Union. Economically, enlargement has led to increased living standards in the new EU Member States, while creating export and investment opportunities for the old ones. It has also helped consolidate democracy, stability and security on our continent. An enlarged EU carries more weight when addressing issues of global importance, be it climate change or the world economy and its governance.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | February 20, 2009
- ➔ For further information and to review the Commission's analytical report, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/publication14091_en.pdf and http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/publication14078_en.pdf.

Ministers set to appoint new head of Europol



Home Affairs Ministers are set to discuss the appointment of a new head for the EU's police cooperation unit, with candidates from UK, Hungary and Spain shortlisted for the job.

- ➔ Source: EUobserver | February 25, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/27677/?rk=1>.

2008 Report on Development and Performance of the SOLVIT network

SOLVIT is a network created by the European Commission and the Member States, with the aim of solving problems that arise for individual citizens and businesses as a result of the misapplication of internal market law. All of the EU Member States, plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, have set up a national SOLVIT centre, in most cases within their Ministry of Foreign or Economic Affairs. These centres cooperate directly via an online database to devise rapid and pragmatic solutions to the problems submitted by citizens and businesses. The Commission recently published a report to provide a clear picture of the performance and development of SOLVIT in 2008. The recommendations at the end of the report indicate which actions are needed by the Commission and the Member States to ensure that good practices continue to be applied.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | February 2008
- ➔ To review the 2008 Report on Development and Performance of the SOLVIT network, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/solvit/site/docs/solvit2008_report_en.pdf.

European Commission meets employers and trade unions to tackle the economic crisis and take action on jobs

On February 25, 2009 the European Commission continued its work to implement the European Economic Recovery Plan with a special meeting with the representatives of trade unions and employers at EU level. It showed a wide consensus that the internal market and the Recovery Plan provided the right springboard for tackling the crisis and taking action on jobs in Europe, and that further measures would have to be put in place at EU level.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | February 25, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/317&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=nl>.

Euro area annual inflation down to 1.1%

Euro area annual inflation was 1.1% in January 2009, down from 1.6% in December 2008. A year earlier, the rate was 3.2%. Monthly inflation was -0.8% in January 2009. EU annual inflation was 1.7% in January 2009, down from 2.2% in December 2008. A year earlier the rate was 3.4%. Monthly inflation was -0.6% in January 2009.

- Source: Eurostat | February 27, 2009
- 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_2009/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2009_MONTH_02/2-27022009-EN-BP.PDF.

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