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## News from the Member Federations | General CoESS news

### SNES (French member federation) welcomes new President



Following its General Assembly on April 1, 2009, SNES (Syndicat National des Entreprises de Sécurité), CoESS' French member federation, welcomes Michel Ferrero as successor to former SNES President Jean-Luc Lattuca. Jean-Luc Lattuca was President of SNES from 2005 to 2009. He was re-elected as Board Member and will pair up with the newly elected President to adequately run the organisation. The new Board of Directors' mandate is valid for a period of two years from 2009-2011.

- Source: Syndicat National des Entreprises de Sécurité (SNES) | April 1, 2009
- For further information, please consult the SNES website: <http://www.e-snes.org/news.html>.

### ESTA Business Conference, Exhibition and General Assembly 2009 - April 26-28, 2009 (Rome, Italy)



On April 26-28, 2009 ESTA, the Cash Industry Logistics Association, corresponding member of CoESS, organised its 2009 Business Conference, Exhibition and General Assembly in Rome, Italy. The Conference programme mainly addressed industry topics such as regulations, security, insurance, technology, holistic solutions and specific initiatives. Numerous case studies from leading CIT operators and vendors across Europe allowed delegates to learn from the experiences of others and to discuss the latest issues.

- Source: ESTA | April 26-27, 2009
- For further information, please consult the ESTA website: <http://www.esta-cash.eu/en/events/>.

### Focus on aviation security and maritime security - TranSec World Expo - June 3-4, 2009 (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

From June 3-4, 2009 TranSec World Expo 2009 celebrates its 7<sup>th</sup> year with an expanded conference and workshop programme. TranSec brings together the leading technologists and thinkers in two days of informed debate on current issues and challenges within the transport arena. This year special focus is given to aviation and maritime security through two thematic conferences:



- Aviation Security Conference: <http://www.transec.com/page.cfm/Action=Seminars/CategoryID=5>
- Maritime & Supply Chain Security Conference: <http://www.transec.com/page.cfm/Action=Seminars/CategoryID=6>

As CoESS and ASSA-I's Secretary General, Ms. Hilde De Clerck, agreed to speak during the TranSec World Expo 2009, interesting registration fees are available to all CoESS and ASSA-I members who wish to attend one of both Conferences. For further information, please contact either the CoESS General Secretariat (Ms. Leen Van Sand: [lv@s-i-b-s.be](mailto:lv@s-i-b-s.be)) or the ASSA-I General Secretariat (Ms. Roxanne Vande Zande: [rvz@i-b-s.be](mailto:rvz@i-b-s.be)).

- For further information, please consult the TranSec World Expo 2009 website: <http://www.transec.com/>.

## News from the CoESS Working Committees

### BusinessEurope EEN meeting - April 20, 2009 (Brussels) - CoESS Working Committee Social Dialogue



On April 20, 2009 CoESS actively participated in the European Employers Network (EEN) meeting. The objective of this meeting was to adequately prepare the participation of the sectoral employers' federations in the Extraordinary Forum Liaison meeting that was organised by the European Commission on April 27, 2009 regarding the ongoing review of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue. In addition, an update on key dossiers in the field of social affairs was given.

### Extraordinary Forum Liaison meeting - April 27, 2009 (Brussels) - CoESS Working Committee Social Dialogue

On April 27, 2009 CoESS actively participated in the Extraordinary Forum Liaison meeting, organised by the European Commission. This Forum took the form of a one-day conference, bringing together around 150 participants - social partner representatives and delegates from Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees, as well as academic experts and policy makers. The Forum contributed to the ongoing assessment of 10 years of European Sectoral Social Dialogue and further informed the European Commission on social partners' views, expectations and recommendations on the functioning of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue and the policy options for its further improvement. The Forum consisted of three working sessions, each of which devoted to one particular aspect of European Sectoral Social Dialogue.

- ➔ Some of the documents that were discussed during the Extraordinary Forum Liaison meeting 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)

### Aviation activity to resume growth as economy returns

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released its annual aviation forecast, which predicts a return to growth for air travel in the long term, underscoring the need for vital aviation infrastructure and environmental improvements contained in the FAA's comprehensive 'Next Generation Air Transportation System' plan. Due to the current worldwide economic downturn, the FAA's 16-year forecast for 2009-2025 predicts domestic passenger enplanements to decrease by 7.8% in 2009 and then grow an average of 2.7% per year during the remaining 15-year forecast period.

- ➔ Source: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) | April 1, 2009
- ➔ To review the FAA's 'Next Generation Air Transportation System' plan, please consult the FAA website: [http://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/nextgen/media/NGIP\\_0130.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/nextgen/media/NGIP_0130.pdf).
- ➔ To review the FAA aviation forecast 2009-2025, please consult the FAA website: [http://www.faa.gov/data\\_research/aviation/aerospace\\_forecasts/2009-2025/](http://www.faa.gov/data_research/aviation/aerospace_forecasts/2009-2025/).

### Historic Aviation Conference between the European Union and Africa

The first ever EU-Africa Aviation Conference took place on April 2-3, 2009 in Windhoek (Namibia), Africa. The Conference constituted a historic landmark, with over 100 participants from all the African countries and all the EU Member States. Representatives of the Commission of the African Union, the European Commission, African regional organisations, national civil aviation authorities and industrial stakeholders met together to lay the foundations for a new EU-Africa partnership in the field of aviation.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | April 2-3, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air/events/2009\\_04\\_02\\_int\\_africa\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air/events/2009_04_02_int_africa_en.htm) and <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/541&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

## EU signs civil aviation agreement with Mongolia



On April 3, 2009 the European Union and Mongolia signed an aviation agreement which will restore legal certainty regarding bilateral air services agreements between Mongolia and EU Member States. The so-called 'horizontal' aviation agreement does not replace the bilateral agreements in place between Mongolia and 12 EU Member States, but brings these in line with EU law. Most importantly, it will remove nationality restrictions in bilateral air services agreements between EU Member States and Mongolia, thereby allowing any EU airline company to operate flights between Mongolia and any EU Member State in which it is established, in which a bilateral agreement with Mongolia already exists, and in which traffic rights are available.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | April 3, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/538&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=nl>.

## First European airlines offering in-flight use of mobile phones thanks to EU-wide ground rules

More and more European air passengers are being offered the choice to use their normal mobile phone to send text messages, browse the web or even make calls on board airplanes. One year after the European Commission put in place common rules for safe use of mobile phones on aircrafts and for simple and non-bureaucratic authorisations of this essentially cross-border service, 27 European aircraft have been equipped to allow the secure use of standard mobile handsets onboard aircraft while flying in European airspace. The number of aircrafts enabled for in-flight use of mobile phones is expected to double by the end of the year.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | April 2, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/526&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=nl>.
- ➔ To verify which European airlines offer in-flight use of mobile phones, please consult the on-air website: <http://www.onair.aero/> or the AeroMobile website: <http://www.aeromobile.net/>.

## European Commission updates the list of airlines banned from European airspace

On April 8, 2009 the European Commission adopted the update of the so-called 'blacklist' of airlines that are banned from flying into the European Union due to safety concerns. The Commission has imposed a ban on six airlines from Kazakhstan, one airline certified in Thailand, one additional Ukrainian air carrier and on operations of all carriers certified in Benin.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | April 8, 2009
- ➔ To review the blacklist of banned airlines, please consult the European Commission website: [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air-ban/pdf/list\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air-ban/pdf/list_en.pdf).

## Pinched by crisis, aerospace sector asks for EU support

The aviation industry called on the Brussels Executive and EU governments to provide support to airlines hit by the credit crunch. It also urged public authorities to increase support for R&D to help the sector deliver the next generation of environmentally-friendly aircraft.

- ➔ Source: AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD) | April 16, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the ASD website: <http://extranet.asd-europe.org/docs/2/GLECMKBDOMOMOOLPJFIOKELF3A11VYEDGD73PDBG9DBW/ASD/docs/DLS/ASDPR160409-2009-00837-01.pdf>.

## MEPs agree to bend airport slot rules to help crisis-hit airlines



Airlines will be allowed to keep their highly-valued landing slots at European airports during next year's summer season even if they don't fully use them this year, EU lawmakers agreed. The measure is aimed at softening the impact of the recession on the airline industry, which has seen demand plummet since the start of the economic crisis.

- Source: European Parliament | April 22, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Parliament website: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/062-54223-112-04-17-910-20090422IPR54220-22-04-2009-2009-false/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/062-54223-112-04-17-910-20090422IPR54220-22-04-2009-2009-false/default_en.htm).

## News from the European Union

### Quarterly report on the Euro area - Special report on competitiveness divergence within the Euro area

The present quarterly report provides a comprehensive review of developments in price competitiveness since the launch of the Euro. Competitiveness imbalances have built up within the Euro area, increasing the exposure of some EU Member States to the financial turmoil. While the economic crisis is projected to lead to some adjustment in external imbalances, re-balancing competitiveness within the Euro area requires a better use of fiscal policies, more flexible product and labour markets, including increased competition in the services sector, to increase productivity and lower prices to the benefit of employment.

- Source: European Commission | March 31, 2009
- To review the quarterly report on the Euro area, please consult the European Commission website: [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/publications/publication14650\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/publication14650_en.pdf).

### Euro area inflation estimated at 0.6% in March 2009

Euro area annual inflation is expected to be 0.6% in March 2009 according to a flash estimated issued by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities. It was 1.2% in February 2009.

- Source: Eurostat | March 31, 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\\_03/2-31032009-EN-AP.PDF](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_03/2-31032009-EN-AP.PDF).

### Russia does not rule out future NATO membership



Russia does not rule out NATO membership at some point in the future, but for the moment, it prefers to keep cooperation on a practical, limited level, Moscow's envoy to NATO, Dmitry Rogozin, stated. "There is no such necessity at this moment, but we cannot rule out this opportunity in the future," Mr. Rogozin said in an interview.

- Source: EUobserver | April 1, 2009
- For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/27890?rk=1>.

### European Parliament Report on the Proposal for a Council Decision on a Critical Infrastructure Warning Network

On April 3, 2009 the European Parliament published its Report on the Proposal for a Council Decision on a Critical Infrastructure Warning Network (CIWIN) (COM(2008)0676 - C6-0399/2008 - 2008/0200(CNS)).

- Source: European Parliament | April 3, 2009

- ➔ To review the Report, please consult the European Parliament website:  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A6-2009-0228+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>.

## European Commission workshops in preparation for the Employment Summit

BusinessEurope's European Employers' Network (EEN) will participate, as part of the employers' delegation, in the three thematic workshops, which the European Commission will organise in Madrid, Stockholm and Prague in April 2009 in preparation of the May 7, 2009 Employment Summit.

- ➔ Source: BusinessEurope | April 7, 2009

## Poland continues drive towards Euro



The Polish government is pressing ahead with its ambitious plan to adopt the Euro by January 1, 2012 as fears that the move would be premature under the current environment appear to be subsiding. To join the currency shared by 16 of the EU's 27 Member States, Poland would first have to enter a two-year antechamber known as Exchange Rate Mechanism II, which allows only limited currency fluctuations between - in this case - the Zloty and the Euro. The Polish government hopes to enter ERM-II before the end of June 2009.

- ➔ Source: EUobserver | April 16, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/27950/?rk=1>.

## Euro area annual inflation down to 0.6% in March 2009 - EU down to 1.3%

Euro area annual inflation was 0.6% in March 2009, down from 1.2% in February 2009. A year earlier, the rate was 3.6%. Monthly inflation was 0.4% in March 2009. EU annual inflation was 1.3% in March 2009, down from 1.8% in February 2009. A year earlier, the rate was 3.8%. Monthly inflation was 0.3% in March 2009.

- ➔ Source: Eurostat | April 16, 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\\_04/2-16042009-EN-BP.PDF](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_04/2-16042009-EN-BP.PDF).

## Tripartite Social Summit - March 19, 2009

On March 19, 2009 the Czech Presidency of the EU convened a Tripartite Social Summit. The aim of the meeting was to have a discussion with the social partners on the financial and economic crisis and its impact on European labour markets.

- ➔ Source: BusinessEurope | April 15, 2009
- ➔ To review the introductory remarks of President Barroso at the Tripartite Social Summit Press Conference, please consult the European Commission website:  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/09/132&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.
- ➔ To review the address by Philippe de Buck, Director-General of BusinessEurope, please consult the BusinessEurope website:  
<http://212.3.246.117/docs/1/MBDJKFCDPNADHFNAPGCGHEMCPDBG9DB3GW9LTE4Q/UNICE/docs/DLS/2009-00748-E.pdf>.

## Czechs push for swifter decisions on EU enlargement

As it continues to enlarge, the European Union needs to review its current vote weighting and abandon the veto system, Erhard Busek, Special Enlargement Advisor to the Czech EU Presidency, told EurActiv in an interview. Pressure is mounting to change decision-making systems in the European Union, said Busek, who, until recently, was Special Coordinator for the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe. He said fears that decision-making is becoming more and more difficult were behind the reluctance of a number of countries to proceed with further enlargement.

- ➔ Source: EurActiv | April 17, 2009

- ➔ To review the full interview, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/busek-western-balkans-join-eu-block/article-181370>.

## EU lobby register 'will never be mandatory'



The voluntary lobbyists register introduced by the European Commission last year has been effective enough not to require a mandatory approach, Administration and Anti-Fraud Commissioner Siim Kallas said on April 17, 2009. "I am convinced that a voluntary approach is much better than a mandatory one, because it offers an incentive to join," the Commissioner stated.

- ➔ Source: European Commission and EU lobby register website | April 17, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/09/181&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> and the EU lobby register website: [http://europa.eu/lobbyists/interest\\_representative\\_registers/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu/lobbyists/interest_representative_registers/index_en.html).

## European Commission adopts new programme to fight terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

The European Commission has adopted a new three-year programme to fight terrorism, trafficking and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The 2009-2011 Indicative Programme for the Instrument for Stability includes the first global counter-terrorism measures developed by the Commission together with experts from EU Member States. Key priorities are Pakistan and Afghanistan as well as the Sahel region in Africa.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | April 17, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/591&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

## Irish support for Lisbon Treaty on the rise

A poll of Irish voters has shown a fall for Ireland's governing party, yet an increase in support for the Lisbon Treaty. The Sunday Independent/Quantum Research poll shows that Irish voters are losing confidence in the Irish government's handling of the economic crisis. Support for the Lisbon Treaty remains steady, with 54% of those polled expressing their intention to vote 'yes'. 24% said they will vote 'no' and 22% had no opinion.

- ➔ Source: Irish Independent | April 19, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the Irish Independent website: <http://www.independent.ie/national-news/ff-facing--wipeout-in-budget-backlash-1713447.html>.

## Platform for dialogue: 'European Integration Forum' and interactive 'European Website on Integration'



On April 20, 2009 the European Commission launched two new tools for integration of third country nationals living in the European Union: the European Integration Forum, organised in cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee, where EU Institutions, stakeholders and civil society organisations will exchange views on integration issues. Furthermore, the European Website on Integration, which will soon become 'Integration at your fingertips' - providing high-quality content from across Europe and building an online community of integration practitioners.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | April 20, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Website on Integration: <http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/index.cfm>.

## Turkey challenges EU bid to create new defence body

Turkish opposition threatens to undermine plans aimed at giving the EU the military muscle to match its economic weight in the world. The French, British and German governments had hoped that the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary NATO summit in Washington would endorse proposals for a European Security and Defence Identity (ESDI). This would allow EU countries to pursue military aims using NATO

weaponry, transport and intelligence in cases where the US did not want to get involved. But Turkey, which has been a member of NATO since the 1950s, has indicated that it would block plans to set up a new defence body if it could not be a full member of the organisation.

→ Source: European Voice | April 23, 2009

## Bosnia believes in EU membership by 2015



Bosnia and Herzegovina could join the EU by 2015, the country's Foreign Minister said, adding that he expects NATO accession to materialise even earlier. "For Bosnia and Herzegovina it will take at least four, five years to get there [achieve EU membership]. If it's not 2013-2014, maybe 2015," Bosnian Foreign Minister Sven Alkalaj stated.

→ Source: EUobserver | April 24, 2009

→ For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/27996/?rk=1>.

## Tentative signs of Eurozone recovery



Although the 16-member Euro area is still very much in the throws of its worst recession since World War II, some positive data suggest the end may be in sight. The purchasing managers' index - an indication of future activity in the areas of services and manufacturing - jumped from 38.3 to 40.5 points in March 2009, giving rise to hope that recovery seen elsewhere in the world may spread to Europe.

→ Source: EUBusiness and Eurostat | April 24, 2009

→ For further information, please consult the EUBusiness website: <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/1240486322.42> and 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\\_04/4-23042009-EN-AP.PDF](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_04/4-23042009-EN-AP.PDF).

## Questions and answers on the new legislation on European Works Councils

In July 2008, the European Commission proposed to update the 1994 legislation (94/45/EC) on European Works Councils (EWCs) to improve their role in anticipating corporate restructuring and involving employees in decision-making. The Council of the EU and the European Parliament have now completed the legislative process, meaning the new Directive has been adopted. The new legislation will strengthen EWCs to better inform and consult workers during restructuring. This is of particular relevance in the current economic climate, so that workers and employers anticipate and manage as well as possible difficult restructuring decisions and future developments.

→ Source: European Commission | April 24, 2009

→ For further information, please consult the European Commission website:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/09/192&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

## European Parliament backs e-money overhaul

The European Parliament voted to reform rules governing e-money in the EU, hoping to encourage the uptake of electronic means of payment across Europe. Online accounts, pre-paid mobile phone accounts or electronic gift vouchers are all examples of e-money services which are expected to benefit from the new rules. With the new rules in place, e-money institutions will need only € 350,000 to start a business, instead of the € 1 million required so far.

On the other hand, to better protect consumers against the risk of default by e-money institutions, the Parliament raised the capital prudential requirements for issuing electronic money. An e-money institution will have to guarantee that its own funds cover at least 2% of the average outstanding electronic sums.

- Source: European Parliament and European Commission | April 24, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Parliament website: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/042-54265-111-04-17-907-20090422IPR54264-21-04-2009-2009-false/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/042-54265-111-04-17-907-20090422IPR54264-21-04-2009-2009-false/default_en.htm) and the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/637&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

## Iceland closer to joining EU after left-wing victory

Icelandic voters punished the centre-right party that had governed the country for most of the last 18 years and dominated it for generations, delivering a clear majority in a snap general election to the centre-left Social Democrats and far-left and ecologist Left Green Movement. But in a twist on expectations, voters also sent to the Althingi, the Icelandic Parliament, a majority of deputies in favour of an immediate application for membership in the European Union.

- Source: EUobserver | April 27, 2009
- For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/28011/?rk=1>.

## Albania to file EU membership application



On April 28, 2009 Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha said that his country would officially apply for EU membership, but accession is not expected for several years to come. “We have made the important decision to submit the formal request to be a candidate country to the EU on April 28,” Mr. Berisha said during a televised cabinet meeting. The decision had been taken “after consultation with European capitals which have supported Albania in this democratic step,” he added.

- Source: The Telegraph | April 27, 2009
- For further information, please consult The Telegraph website: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/albania/5231020/Albania-to-apply-for-EU-membership.html>.

## New report adds to cohesion policy debate



Debate on the future of the EU’s cohesion policy post-2013 received a major contribution on April 27, 2009 with the publication of an independent report by Dr. Fabrizio Barca, Director-General of the Italian Finance Ministry. The report broadly backs the EU’s current cohesion policy that aims to boost development in underperforming regions, but also outlines the need for a number of important reforms to improve the policy’s future efficiency. One of the report’s chief conclusions is the need to tackle the persistent underutilisation of economic potential in certain European regions and the ongoing social exclusion that local and national politicians are failing to diminish.

- Source: European Commission | April 27, 2009
- To review the report and for further information, please consult the European Commission website: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/policy/future/barca\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/future/barca_en.htm).

## Talks to revise EU Working Time Bill fail

After hours of late-night negotiations on April 27, 2009, EU Member States and MEPs officially abandoned trying to reach an agreement on updating a Directive on working hours across the 27-nation bloc. “Despite 5 years of painstaking negotiations on the revision of the Working Time Directive, which often went on until the small hours, the current legislation will stay in force,” the Czech EU Presidency said in a statement.

The stalemate means the current EU rules on working time are to remain in force, with the European Commission now considering whether to draft new ones.

- Source: European Parliament and Czech EU Presidency | April 28, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Parliament website: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/048-54485-117-04-18-908-20090427IPR54484-27-04-2009-2009-false/default\\_nl.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/048-54485-117-04-18-908-20090427IPR54484-27-04-2009-2009-false/default_nl.htm) and the Czech EU Presidency website: <http://www.eu2009.cz/en/news-and-documents/press-releases/negotiations-with-parliament-do-not-lead-to-greater-employee-protection-18621/>.

## New skills for new jobs

BusinessEurope adopted a position paper on the European Commission's Communication 'New Skills for New Jobs'. The Communication is a timely initiative that rightly emphasises the need to upgrade skills and to match skills and labour market needs better. The European Union will need a highly skilled and adaptable workforce in order to remain competitive in the global economy. This will require modern and flexible education and training systems combined with effective mobility and immigration policies.

- Source: BusinessEurope | April 29, 2009
- To review BusinessEurope's position paper, please consult the BusinessEurope website: <http://212.3.246.117/docs/1/CLKJCHLDPBLHJOEFHBGPNMEPDBG9DWDAN9LTE4Q/UNICE/docs/DLS/2009-01036-E.pdf>.

## Banking on Parliament's security

When a robber stole around € 60,000 from the branch of ING in the European Parliament's Paul-Henri Spaak building on a busy working day in February 2009, the Parliament launched a review of security to see how to prevent a recurrence of such embarrassing incidents. The review has now been completed, but the solution may not bring much comfort to MEPs, Parliament employees or visitors. It does not focus on tightening up on the checks that security guards make on who enters the buildings and what they bring with them. Instead, the Parliament is to create a new Directorate in charge of security. Good news for Fernando Suarez, who has been given the job of heading up the new Directorate.

- Source: European Voice | April 30, 2009

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

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