



News from the

Member Federations

- VPB quality mark
- Romania: ARIS and PATROSEC, together with ARTS, form a joint council
- Restructuring of EASA and new website

Working Committees

- Working Committee Social Dialogue: Forum Liaison February 27, 2007
- Working Committee Social Dialogue: Questionnaire on Green Paper on Labour Law
- Working Committee Guarding: CoESS Campaign 'The Future of our Industry', 1st phase consultation
- Working Committee Airport Security: Roundtable debate 'European Aviation Security Providers call for European certification'

European Union

- Lobbying for a social side to Berlin Declaration
- Macedonia aims for early accession talks
- Safety at work
- EU-US intelligence spat over air passenger data
- EU to present lobbyist register
- UK fails to win concessions on open skies deal
- MEPs hold hearing on airline data protection
- Private security sector finally in the process of restructuring

CoESS' Newsflash relaunched!

CoESS is proud to reintroduce its Newsflash initiative!

The Newsflash will be issued on a monthly basis and remains the ideal tool to keep all member federations up to date on current (member) activities and initiatives, and, to broaden its scope, on news from the European Union. If necessary, an extra Newsflash will be published with 'hot' news.

Of course, we would **greatly appreciate your help** in making this Newsflash a true voice for our sector! Therefore, please do not hesitate to provide us with any news items, content and comments you deem useful and/or interesting. Your input is highly valued!

Please send your reactions to apeg-bvbo@i-b-s.be or lvs@i-b-s.be. Thank you!

VPB quality mark



As of January 2006, the Dutch association of private security companies, VPB, Vereniging van Particuliere Beveiligingsorganisaties, has launched a quality mark ensuring strict standards are met with regards to integrity, quality improvement and communication towards the end customer. Each year, an independent external certifying institution verifies security companies awarded with this quality mark. Up until now, 12 private security companies have achieved the quality mark, including the first non-VPB member. At present, two new quality marks are in the pipeline: the quality mark for private investigation agencies (Keurmerk Particuliere Onderzoeksbureaus) and the quality mark for transport of cash and valuables (Keurmerk Geld- en Waardentransport).

- Source: VPB checklist March 2007 | Date: March 30, 2007
- For further information, please consult the VPB website (Dutch): <http://www.vpb.nl/kwaliteit.html>.

Romania: ARIS and PATROSEC, together with ARTS, form a joint council

The two Romanian members of CoESS, ARIS and PATROSEC, have formed, together with a third federation (ARTS), a new joint council, the Coordinating Council of Romanian Private Security Services (CCRPSS).

- For further information, please consult the News section on the CoESS website: <http://coess.org/Default.htm>.

Restructuring of EASA and new website



EASA (European Aviation Security Association) is a corresponding member of CoESS, comprising the seven most important European security companies active in ensuring the security of civil aviation in Europe. The EASA structure has recently been fully reorganized and we are proud to announce that Vanessa Galhardo-Galhetas has assumed the role of permanent Legal Advisor for EASA.

- For further information, please consult the new EASA website: <http://www.easa-security.com>.

Working Committee Social Dialogue: Forum Liaison February 27, 2007

On February 27, the European Commission organized another Forum Liaison meeting in Brussels. This debate focused on restructuring. Hereby, please find a link to two documents that might be of interest to you from DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities:

- Presentation on European Social Dialogue by Jackie Morin, Head of Unit EMPL.F.1 at the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/docs/lf_070227_morin.pps
- Presentation of a Study on restructuring in the new Member States by Alan Wild, ARITAKE-WILD: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/docs/lf_070227_wild.pps
- Source: European Commission website on Social Dialogue: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/index_en.htm
- Other presentations given during the Forum Liaison on February 27, 2007 can be found here: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/focus_on_archive_en.htm

Working Committee Social Dialogue: Questionnaire on Green Paper on Labour Law

CoESS has officially communicated its comments regarding the Questionnaire on Green Paper on Labour Law to the European Commission.

- To consult the Green Paper on Labour Law, please click on the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/labour_law/green_paper_en.htm.
- To consult the commentaries CoESS sent to the European Commission, please click on the following link: http://coess.org/pdf/coess_position_green_paper.pdf.

Working Committee Guarding: CoESS Campaign 'The Future of our Industry', 1st phase consultation

During the last Working Committee Guarding on March 27, Jorma Hakala presented the first preliminary results from the 'The Future of our Industry' survey (1st phase consultation) that was carried out amongst the CoESS member federations. These results already contribute to the final in-depth analysis of the future of our industry.

- To consult the report of the Working Committee Guarding of March 27, please consult the CoESS Intranet site: http://coess.org/intranet/download.php?docname=wc_guarding_27032007.pdf. Please note that you will have to login to be able to view the document. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the General Secretariat.

Working Committee Airport Security: Roundtable debate 'European Aviation Security Providers call for European certification'

On May 2, EASA organizes a roundtable debate in the European Parliament. Reflecting the continuous efforts made by aviation security providers to improve the quality of security services, the aim of the roundtable is to foster discussion and debate between key stakeholders at the EU level on the need for EU certification and its potential role in enhancing security standards and addressing the issue of unlimited third party liability. ./.

Speakers include Alexander Nuno Alvaro, Marjeta Jager, Marc Pissens, Zamir Eldar, Gerard Borel and Kris Bernauw.

- The conclusions and outcome of this roundtable debate will be made available at a later stage on the EASA website: <http://www.easa-security.com>.

Lobbying for a social side to Berlin Declaration



Nine EU governments have called for a stronger emphasis to be placed on the social aspects of Europe amid deep divisions over the Berlin Declaration to mark the 50th anniversary of the Union.

Labour ministers from Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Hungary have signed a letter saying that the European social model, “based on common principles and values - social justice, equality, solidarity,” should be strengthened. The letter is a lobbying effort to ensure that both the Berlin Declaration and the subsequent negotiations on a new treaty include a strong endorsement of the importance of social protection in the EU.

- Source: European Voice (<http://www.europeanvoice.com>) | Issue: February 22-28, 2007
- To download the text of the Berlin Declaration, please click on the following link: http://www.eu2007.de/en/About_the_EU/Constitutional_Treaty/BerlinerErklaerung.html.

Macedonia aims for early accession talks



Macedonia hopes to begin EU accession talks early next year, according to Deputy Prime Minister Gabriela Konevska-Trajkovska. “Our biggest expectation is for the Slovenian presidency in 2008,” Konevska-Trajkovska said, adding that she was hoping Macedonia would get a date to begin negotiations before the end of the year.

Konevska-Trajkovska said Macedonia hoped to be ready to implement fully all EU laws by the end of the decade. “2010 is the year when we expect to be fully harmonised with the legislation of the European Union,” she said.

- Source: European Voice (<http://www.europeanvoice.com>) | Issue: February 22-28, 2007
- For further information, please consult the European Commission’s Enlargement website: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/the_former_yugoslav_republic_of_macedonia/key_documents_en.htm.

Safety at work

The European Commission yesterday (21 February) proposed a new five-year health and safety strategy to cut work-related illness and accidents by 25%. Measures proposed in the 2007-12 strategy include research to identify new risks and 27 national health and safety plans. Sickness and accidents in the workplace are estimated to cost € 1 billion a year.

- Source: European Voice (<http://www.europeanvoice.com>) | Issue: February 22-28, 2007
- For further information, please consult the European Commission’s Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=209.

EU-US intelligence spat over air passenger data

The EU’s demands for access to intelligence information gleaned from airline passenger data passed to the US has put it on a collision course with the American authorities. Negotiations began end of February between the two sides on a deal to allow the transfer of information on airline passengers travelling from Europe to the US, but with a new mandate from EU member states requesting the intelligence data. The mandate states that the deal, which is supposed to help combat terrorism and serious crime, “should ensure the possibility of transfer of analytical information flowing from PNR (passenger name records) data by competent US authorities to police and judicial authorities of the member states, as well as to Europol and Eurojust”.

- Source: European Voice (<http://www.europeanvoice.com>) | Issue: March 1-7, 2007
- For further information, please consult the European Commission’s Justice and Home Affairs website: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/privacy/workinggroup/index_en.htm.

EU to present lobbyist register

The European commission will today unveil proposals to introduce more transparency and accountability into the sometimes shady world of EU lobbying. Transparency commissioner Siim Kallas is expected to propose the setting up of a Brussels register for lobbyists disclosing details of fees and clients for each lobby company. ./.

The move follows the adoption by Brussels of a European Transparency Initiative last year and a green paper consultation. However, the plan for a register, which would be on a voluntary basis, has been heavily criticised by transparency advocates as being riddled with loopholes and for failing to address the wider problem of hidden corporate influence on EU lawmaking. Critics also argue that the commission's plans do not address the issue of 'revolving doors', the practice of senior EU functionaries securing well paid jobs with major corporations after they leave their Brussels post.

- Source: <http://www.EUpolitix.com> | Date: March 21, 2007
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website on the Transparency Initiative: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/kallas/transparency_en.htm.
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UK fails to win concessions on open skies deal

European airline share prices rose sharply, reports FT Europe, amid speculation on the possible impact of an EU-US open skies deal, expected to be approved at a meeting of EU transport ministers in Brussels on Thursday. Meanwhile the UK papers report that despite a one-on-one call between Tony Blair and George W. Bush to win a more favourable settlement for the UK, London is unlikely to win any concessions. The Guardian reports that diplomats in Brussels said on Tuesday that the UK would receive no backing from EU member states to adopt last-minute changes to the deal.

- Source: The Independent/The Guardian | Date: March 21, 2007
 - For further information, please consult The Independent website: <http://news.independent.co.uk/business/news/article2377743.ece>.
 - Or The Guardian website: <http://business.guardian.co.uk/story/0,,2038762,00.html>.
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MEPs hold hearing on airline data protection

The European Parliament's civil liberties committee holds a public hearing today on data protection issues. The hearing will take stock of the factual and legal situation on the transfer of personnel data to the USA for security reasons, particularly airline passenger data (PNR), data related to financial transfers (SWIFT) and data exchanged between private parties (Safe Harbour).

The discussion will open with a general presentation of both the constitutional and legal context of data processed in Europe and in the USA. Among the main speakers there will be representatives from council and commission and experts representing the Article 29 working party, the American civil liberties union, European Bank Federation and the European Data Protection Supervisor, Peter Hustinx.

- Source: <http://www.EUpolitix.com> | Date: March 26, 2007
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission's Justice and Home Affairs website: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/privacy/workinggroup/index_en.htm.
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Private security sector finally in the process of restructuring

According to the Belgian Minister of Internal affairs, the private security sector, now covering a total of 150,000 employees in 4,000 companies of which 25% disappear each year, is in dire need of restructuring. To this effect, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has foreseen two main measures.

As a first measure, homeland security legislation was adapted on March 5, now enforcing security guards to obtain a certificate of professional qualification in order to be able to perform their tasks. For them to obtain this certificate, security guards will be required to attend a basic programme covering 70 course hours on legislation, conflict management, fire safety and electrical circuitry. The sector will finalise this certificate before end of 2008.

Secondly, an agreement on the different professions within the private security sector will take effect in July. The agreement comprises a total of 17 professions. For each category, there are 3 grades, and each grade - ideally - would be compensated differently in order to create and further career opportunities, and to improve the sector's reputation.

These two measures will - in time - allow for the private security sector to finally be restructured and reorganized.

- Source: Les Echos | Date: April 10, 2007
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For further information on these topics, please contact the General Secretariat:

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

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