

## News from the

### Member Federations

- SCI - Security Congress of Ireland
- VPB - Industry scan 2006
- VPB - Quality mark
- EASA Working Group on Quality and Training

### Working Committees

- Working Committee Maritime - Stockholm
- Working Committee Maritime - European Commission study for a European Port Identification Card (EPAIC)

### European Union

- EU ombudsman calls for greater access to documents
- Cheaper mobile calls on the way
- Duty-free liquids
- Sharp contrast in days' leave across EU
- Socialists urge EU strategy against terrorism
- Sarkozy wants EU to have stronger role on world stage
- EU welcomes Gül election
- Presidency in bid to revise Working Time Directive

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#### SCI - Security Congress of Ireland



On May 24, 2005 SCI, the Security Congress of Ireland, was inaugurated. SCI is a merger, for European and international purposes of SFI, the Security Federation of Ireland, and ISIA, the Irish Security Industry Association. We would hereby like to point out to all members that SCI is the only representative umbrella federation, active member of CoESS, covering the Irish private security industry.

- For further information on the activities and objectives of SCI, please visit their website: <http://www.securitycongress.ie/>.

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#### VPB - Industry scan 2006



Each year, an independent research agency conducts an industry scan for VPB, our member federation from the Netherlands. VPB announced the results of its 2006 industry scan. The turnover growth of 2005 continues in 2006 to € 1.29 billion Euros. This increase in turnover of 10% (6% in 2005) must be slightly nuanced as in previous years the majority of airport security activities was not taken into consideration for the calculations.

- Source: VPB Checklist | August 2007
- The VPB industry scan can be downloaded from the VPB website (please note that the industry scan is available in Dutch only): [http://www.vpb.nl/media/27125\\_Ontwikkelingen\\_in\\_de\\_beveiligingsbranche\\_VPB\\_Branchescan\\_2006\\_C\\_aanpassingen\\_23-8\\_.pdf](http://www.vpb.nl/media/27125_Ontwikkelingen_in_de_beveiligingsbranche_VPB_Branchescan_2006_C_aanpassingen_23-8_.pdf).

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#### VPB - Quality mark



VPB reports that nearly all of its guarding members will have achieved the VPB quality mark by the end of this year. Meanwhile, VPB continues its efforts on the development of a specific quality mark for private investigation agencies and for employment agencies. Furthermore, a quality mark for the transport of cash and valuables will be issued. All new VPB members are awarded a period of one year in order to achieve the quality mark certificate. As of 2008, the quality mark for guarding companies will be a VPB membership prerequisite.

- Source: VPB Checklist | August 2007
- For further information on the VPB quality mark, please visit the VPB website: <http://www.vpb.nl/kwaliteit.html>.

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### EASA Working Group on Quality and Training



On August 28, 2007 EASA organised a Working Group on Quality and Training. On the subject of training, EASA also actively takes part in the Working Group Implementing Legislation and in SAGAS, the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Aviation Security (working group within the European Commission's DG Transport and Energy). On the subject of quality, EASA is currently reviewing the existing European Aviation Security Quality Charter and is examining the possibility of creating a Quality Label. On September 3, 2007 EASA organised a Working Group on Data Collection. The purpose of this meeting was to identify and agree basic definitions to enable efficient data collection among EASA members. A second Working Group will be organised in November 2007 to finalise definitions, create a system for data collection and establish an overview of the entire sector.

- For further information, please visit the EASA website: <http://www.easa-security.org>.

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### Working Committee Maritime - Stockholm

On August 23-24, 2007 the Working Committee Maritime organised a meeting in Stockholm, Sweden. The report of this meeting will soon be made available to you. In 2007, the now former President of the Working Committee Maritime Security, Mr. Iskender Targac, decided to step down due to health reasons. CoESS would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Targac for the intensive efforts and time invested in CoESS. Mr. Targac was considered a true asset to the workings of CoESS. Hereupon, the CoESS Board of Directors warmly welcomed Nico Bezemer as the Ad Interim President of the Working Committee Maritime Security. CoESS looks forward to a fruitful cooperation with Mr. Bezemer.

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### Working Committee Maritime - European Commission study for a European Port Identification Card (EPAIC)

The European Commission is seeking to support and improve the security of EU ports, port facilities and ships. The PORTIDS consortium has been engaged by the European Commission to analyse the technologies and procedures currently in use, and to gather the opinions of port users and other stakeholders for a single EU-wide port ID card or a compatible system using existing cards, to create a single European Port Identification Card (EPIAC). A report on the findings of the project will be submitted to the European Commission in October 2007. The European Commission wishes to collect data from the representatives of European trade bodies, their members, and others on this subject. The CoESS Working Committee Maritime, also represented in SAGMaS, the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Maritime Security, will therefore participate in the sectoral consultation meeting organised by PORTIDS on September 18, 2007 in Brussels.

- For further information on the EPAIC study, please consult the PORTIDS website: [http://www.portids.eu/about\\_epaic.html](http://www.portids.eu/about_epaic.html).

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### EU ombudsman calls for greater access to documents



The European ombudsman has called for citizens to have wider access to documents and information. Strasbourg-based Nikiforos Diamandouros says this would give the public a better understanding of the role played by member states in implementing EU policies. His call is contained in his response to the European commission's public consultation on how to improve the current access to documents legislation. Citizens, NGOs, enterprises or other organisations who turn to the ombudsman after an EU institution has refused access to certain documents should not have to wait months for the institution to explain its position, he said.

- Source: The European Ombudsman Press Release | no. 10/2007
- For further information, please consult the European Ombudsman's website: <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/release/en/2007-07-24.htm>.

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### Cheaper mobile calls on the way



New EU legislation on mobile roaming charges comes into force today. The move, which should mean significant price cuts, is the culmination of a European Commission campaign to bring down the high price of making cross-border mobile phone calls in Europe. The maximum cost of making a call has been set at 49 cents for making calls and 24 cents for receiving them. The Commission's campaign against current roaming charges started in October 2005 and has succeeded despite vociferous opposition and lobbying from the mobile phone operators. Under the new law, the caps on roaming charges will be reduced further in the next two years.

- Source: The Parliament website | August 1, 2007

- For further information, please consult the European Commission's website: [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/roaming/press/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/roaming/press/index_en.htm).

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### Duty-free liquids

The European Commission adopted a regulation on July 31, 2007 that will allow passengers travelling from third countries and taking internal flights within the EU to keep any duty-free bottles that they have purchased, despite the anti-terrorist ban on carrying liquids. The regulation would involve the European Commission officials inspecting airport security in third countries to check that it meets EU standards. The initial focus would be on countries with a high number of passengers flying to the EU, such as the US, Russia and Singapore.

- Source: European Voice | August 2-29, 2007
- For further reading, please consult the European Press Release Rapid: <http://www.europa.eu./rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/317&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

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### Sharp contrast in days' leave across EU



Marked differences exist between EU member states in the total number of days' leave they offer workers, according to a survey. It reveals that some countries have almost three-and-a-half working weeks' more time off than others. Findings from the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) show that, in addition, the length of the working week and annual hours worked vary greatly from one country to another. On average, workers in the 12 new member states work two and a half working weeks more each year than do workers in the former EU15. After Sweden, the countries with the greatest number of days' leave are Germany (40 days), Italy (39 days), Luxembourg and Denmark (38 days each).

- Source: Eurofound website | July 19, 2007
- For further information, please consult the Eurofound website: <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/press/releases/2007/070719.htm>.

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### Socialists urge EU strategy against terrorism



Parliament's Socialist group has unveiled a 13-page blueprint on the fight against terrorism, setting out detailed recommendations for action at EU level. The paper, entitled "The fight against terrorism: security with safeguards for citizens' rights", addresses three key policy areas: security and justice, with protection for people's rights; EU foreign policy and the terrorist threat and prevention strategies, focused on social inclusion and dialogue.

Foreign policy action envisaged in the paper includes international cooperation to produce a UN convention on terrorism and improved relations with the Arab world.

The document also includes measures to foster security sector reform in southern Mediterranean countries and enhanced EU policies for economic and social development through trade, aid and investment.

- Source: The Socialist Group in the European Parliament | August 6, 2007
- For further information, please consult the Parliament's Socialist group's website: <http://www.socialistgroup.eu/gpes/newsdetail.do?lg=en&id=47253&href=home>.

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### Sarkozy wants EU to have stronger role on world stage



In his first major foreign policy speech, French president Nicolas Sarkozy has called for the EU to have a stronger role on the world stage. "Europe must progressively affirm itself as a first-rank player for peace and security, in cooperation with the United Nations, the Atlantic alliance and the African Union," he said. He added that France will push for a bolder European Union security strategy when it assumes the rotating presidency next year.

- Source: Financial Times website | August 28, 2007
- For further reading, please consult the Financial Times' website: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7ee9e8dc-54d1-11dc-890c-0000779fd2ac.html>.

## EU welcomes Gül election



The election of Abdullah Gül as Turkey's new president has been welcomed by the EU as providing a fresh impetus to EU membership talks.

- Source: EUpolitix.com | August 29, 2007
- For further reading, please consult the BBC News' website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6595511.stm>.

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## Presidency in bid to revise Working Time Directive

The Portuguese presidency is working behind the scenes to secure an agreement on EU working time rules, as the change of administration in France has improved prospects for a deal. Bilateral talks are being held with a number of national delegations to begin work on a new compromise deal that would be signed off at a meeting of employment ministers in December 2007.

The Portuguese presidency is the fifth to tackle revisions to the blocked Directive, which were proposed by the European Commission in 2004. France, Italy and Spain blocked attempts by the Finnish presidency to seal a deal in November. They had wanted to see firmer commitments on ending the UK opt-out from the original 1996 Directive.

- Source: European Voice | August 30-September 5, 2007
- For further information, please consult the European Voice's website: <http://www.europeanvoice.com/current/article.asp?id=28695>.

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## CoESS General Assembly

Dear Members, please keep in mind that the next CoESS General Assembly will be organised on **September 20, 2007**. The agenda and the relevant working documents will be provided to you shortly.

**May we kindly ask you to please provide us with your filled out registration forms as soon as possible if you have not done so already? Many thanks in advance!**

Kindest regards,

The CoESS General Secretariat

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

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