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VPB reports - European standard for private investigation



Rules and regulations for private investigation activities differ in each of the European Member States. The IKD (Internationale Kommission der Detektive-Verbände) is therefore working on a European minimum standard for private investigation activities. This standard comprises, amongst others, a definition of private investigation activities and provisions related to professional liability insurance. A separate Code of Ethics has been developed to further protect the privacy of persons investigated.

- Source: VPB Checklist | October 2007
- For further information, please consult the VPB website: www.vpb.nl.

VPB quality mark



VPB reports that 22 of its guarding members have achieved the VPB security quality mark. The concept of the quality mark for the transport of cash and valuables has also been finalised. This quality mark is based on the security quality mark, but includes additional specificities linked to CIT activities. The CIT quality mark is now in the process of being approved by the VPB Board of Directors and the General Assembly.

- Source: VPB Checklist | October 2007

- For further information, please consult the VPB website: www.vpb.nl.
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VPB - collective labour agreement



On October 4, 2007 VPB reached an agreement with the trade unions on a one-year collective labour agreement (April 1, 2007 to April 1, 2008). Some of the main themes that were negotiated are: wage increase, prolongation of contracts, segmentation, additional holidays and others.

- Source: VPB Checklist | October 2007
 - For further information, please consult the VPB website: www.vpb.nl.
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USP (Union des Entreprises de Sécurité) publishes best practices guide

USP, candidate CoESS member, recently published its best practices guide on private security entitled 'Guide des bonnes pratiques de la sécurité privée - Engagement pour une profession citoyenne'. This guide is a follow-up of USP's 2006 white paper on the private security industry (downloadable in French from the USP website: <http://www.uspsecurite.org/LivreBlanc.html>). The best practices guide is a practical tool extending the values that were defined in the white paper.

- Source: USP | November 19, 2007
 - To download the best practices guide (in French), please consult the USP website: <http://www.uspsecurite.org/LivreBlanc.html>.
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EBSRT meeting - December 4, 2007

CoESS regularly participates in EBSRT (European Business Services Round Table) meetings. The EBSRT is a wide-ranging informal stakeholder forum involving more than 50 European associations and professional bodies representing the interests of providers of business-related services. The next EBSRT meeting will be organised on December 4, 2007 in Brussels. Should you be available and interested in participating in this meeting, please let us know beforehand so that we can notify the EBSRT and provide you with further practical details.

CoESS website booming!

Upon review of the CoESS website statistics we have noticed once again an ever-increasing number of visitors to the website. CoESS would hereby like to thank all of its members for their updates, articles and content in order to adequately feed the website. Let's continue this positive trend also in 2008!

Working Committee Electronic Surveillance meeting - November 20, 2007 (Brussels)

On November 20, 2007 the Working Committee Electronic Surveillance was pleased to welcome many new faces to the discussion table. A constructive meeting was held covering the following topics: a review of the inventory of monitoring connections throughout Europe, follow-up on the development of Mobile Alarm Receiving Centre (M.A.R.C.) standards, follow-up on technical developments with regard to monitoring/virtual guarding, further work on training needs/manual, and CoESS' internal briefing note and request for action.

- To consult the report of the Working Committee Electronic Surveillance of November 20, 2007 please consult the CoESS Intranet site: <http://coess.org/intranet/login.php>. 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.
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Working Committee Maritime Security meeting - November 26-27, 2007 (Budapest)

On November 26-27, 2007 the Working Committee Maritime Security organised a two-day meeting in Budapest, Hungary. CoESS would hereby like to thank Dr. Laszlo Reindl for his warm welcome and kind hospitality! The Working Committee focused on several topics, such as the latest developments within SAGMaS (Stakeholder Advisory Group on Maritime Security), the training programme that has been developed in the framework of the implementation of the ISPS Code, Trade Lane Security and the working programme for the next working year. The report of the Working Committee Maritime Security 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 view the document. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the General Secretariat.

Working Committee Guarding meeting - November 28, 2007 (Brussels)

On November 28, 2007 the Working Committee Guarding discussed several agenda points: update on the Services Directive and CEN projects, next steps following the 'The Future of the Industry' survey and the working programme for 2007-2008. The report of the Working Committee Guarding 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 view the document. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the General Secretariat.

Working Committee Social Dialogue - Secretariat meeting, November 29, 2007

On November 29, 2007 CoESS participated in a joint CoESS/UNI-Europa Secretariat meeting attended by the European Commission. Several topics were discussed and the draft agenda for the Social Dialogue Plenary meeting on January 28, 2008 was finalised: modernisation of work organisation, Social Dialogue implementation project, third-party violence, TAIX conference in Turkey, work-related stress and update/follow-up of the Social Dialogue working programme for the current and next working year.

Germany ahead of EU workforce targets

Germany has achieved EU employment goals two years early, according to official figures that highlight the strength of the labour market recovery in Europe's largest economy. The data, collected by the Federal Statistical Agency, showed that 40.05m Germans (70.7 per cent of the population) had jobs last month. Germany has now reached the EU employment goals for 2010, as set out in its so-called 'Lisbon Strategy'.

- Source: [The Financial Times | October 31, 2007](#)
 - [Germany's National Reform Programme for 2005-2008 \(Lisbon Strategy\)](#) can be reviewed on the European Commission's website: http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/nrp2007/GE_nrp_en.pdf.
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Member States told to do more to combat terrorism

A European Commission report on November 6, 2007 criticized Member States for not fully implementing EU legislation aimed at combating terrorism. The legislation, which was agreed after the September 11 (2001) terrorist attacks on the US, sets down minimum penalties for terrorist offences and foresees better cooperation between Member States' police and judicial bodies. But more than five years since the measures were agreed, the Commission will highlight major gaps in its implementation.

- Source: [European Voice | October 31-November 7, 2007](#)
 - For further information, please visit European Commission's Vice-President Franco Frattini's website: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/frattini/policies/policies_en.htm.
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EU Commission unveils anti-terror action plan



On November 6, 2007 the European Commission launched a wide-ranging anti-terror package, including proposals for a European passenger name record system and an action plan on the security of explosives.

These new draft anti-terrorism proposals would allow the EU to collect personal data on air passengers travelling to or from the 27 EU Member States and to store them for 13 years. The plan, drawn up by EU Home Affairs Commissioner, Franco Frattini, will also include an EU-wide rapid alert system on lost and stolen explosives and a proposal to criminalise those who misuse the internet for terrorism purposes.

- Source: [European Commission | November 6, 2007](#)
 - For further information on the policies foreseen by the new European anti-terrorism coordinator, Gilles de Kerchove, please visit the Council of the European Union's website: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?lang=en&id=1344&mode=g&name=.
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Key challenges facing labour markets: a joint analysis of European social partners

On November 7, 2007 BusinessEurope presented its joint analysis of the key challenges facing European labour markets. Negotiated over 12 months, the text describes current trends on European labour markets, identifies key challenges and issues recommendations to policy-makers and social partners on how to address them. The successful conclusion of these negotiations is a major achievement for the European Social Dialogue work programme 2006-2008 and constitutes the main contribution of the European social partners to the debate on flexicurity, which is expected to result in adoption of a common set of principles by the European Council in December 2007.

- Source: [BusinessEurope | November 7, 2007](#)

- The joint analysis can be downloaded from the BusinessEurope website:
<http://212.3.246.117/docs/1/OOBBJDMBDGDBIHKBIIDFBADHPDB39DWKAN9LTE4Q/UNICE/docs/DLS/2007-01436-E.pdf>.

Towards Common Principles of Flexicurity: More and better jobs through flexibility and security

In July 2007, the European Commission issued a communication on flexicurity entitled 'Towards Common Principles of Flexicurity: More and better jobs through flexibility and security'. On November 8, 2007 BusinessEurope launched its position paper on this European Commission communication. Both documents are available for download in PDF format.

- Source: BusinessEurope | November 8, 2007
- To download the European Commission's communication, please visit the European Commission's website:
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/employment_strategy/flexicurity%20media/flexicuritypublication_2007_en.pdf.
- To download BusinessEurope's position paper, please visit the BusinessEurope website:
<http://www.besnesseurope.eu/DocShareNoFrame/docs/1/EAIADMBKJPNKOIPAPMNBNPCPDB39DW1269LTE4Q/UNICE/docs/DLS/2007-01553-E.pdf>.

EU extends borderless travel zone

Europe's passport-free travel area will be opened up to nine more member states, after EU ministers announced they will lift border checks. Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic and Malta will officially lift the border posts on December 21, 2007. Cyprus, the tenth nation to join the EU in 2004, will keep some border checks and stay out of the Schengen borderless travel zone, as will Britain and Ireland. Switzerland, which remains outside the EU, is set to join the zone next year.

- Source: Times Online | November 9, 2007
- For further information, please consult the Times Online website:
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article2835790.ece>.

Enlargement talks continue



Progress 'steady but uneven' for Western Balkans and largely 'on track' for Turkey according to EU annual enlargement report. The EU looks set to sign an initial deal with all the Western Balkan countries by the end of 2008 which would pave the way for them to eventually join the bloc. The countries involved are Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

- Source: European Commission | November 12, 2007
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website:
http://ec.europa.eu/news/external_relations/071107_1_en.htm.
- The enlargement strategy and progress reports 2007 can also be downloaded from the European Commission's website:
http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/key_documents/reports_nov_2007_en.htm.

Ukraine 'moving towards' EU membership



Ukraine is ready to put its recent political turmoil behind it and join the EU. That was the message from Edilberto Segura during a meeting organised by the EU-Ukraine Business Council. Segura is an advisor to the EU-Ukraine Business Council, leading World Bank economist and Director of the SigmaBleyzer Kyiv office. On November 13, 2007 Parliament ratified a process to simplify the visa process with Ukraine. The agreement on visa changes will allow a fixed price for visas at € 35 and additionally, will waive visa charges for students, journalists and close relatives.

- Source: EU-Ukraine Business Council | November 15, 2007
- For further information, please consult the EU-Ukraine Business Council website: <http://www.euubc.com>.

EU to update VAT laws

The Financial Times reports that Brussels is set to propose plans to reduce the problem of 'hidden' value-added tax for banks and insurers. The proposals to revise laws that exempt financial services from VAT, are designed to tackle inconsistencies and reduce the costly headache of non-recoverable tax.

- Source: Financial Times | November 16, 2007
- For further information, please consult the Financial Times website: http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0346591c-93cf-11dc-acd0-0000779fd2ac.html?ncklick_check=1.

Atlas 2008 - Economic overview of the security sector

En Toute Sécurité has published the 17th edition of its annual 'Atlas', providing a global and synthetic outlook on worldwide, US and European security markets, and more specifically on the French security market. This publication is available in French and can be ordered through En Toute Sécurité.

- Source: En Toute Sécurité | November 19, 2007
 - For further information, please consult the En Toute Sécurité website: http://www.security-info.com/web/index_eng.php.
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EU to push ahead with talks over Turkish membership

On November 21, 2007 the European Commission stated it wants to move ahead with its membership negotiations with Turkey in December despite reservations by France and other Member States. Enlargement Commissioner, Olli Rehn, said the talks would progress into two new policy areas - health and consumer policies and transport - on December 18, 2007.

- Source: International Herald Tribune | November 21, 2007
 - For further information, please consult the International Herald Tribune website: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/11/20/europe/EU-GEN-EU-Turkey.php>.
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EU states clash with MEPs over new security measures

The European Union has failed to strike a deal on common aircraft security measures, including the idea of having armed sky marshals on flights across the 27-nation bloc. On November 20, 2007 all three EU institutions - the Council representing Member States, the Parliament and the Commission - kicked off a process known as conciliation, aimed at thrashing out their differences over the draft regulation. According to the European Parliament, the costs should be shared by passengers and Member States, the Council, however, says all costs should be borne by the airlines industry, which would almost certainly pass the extra burden on to passengers. The committee now has six to eight weeks to reach the final wording on a joint text.

- Source: EU Observer | November 21, 2007
 - To view the full article, please consult the EU Observer website: http://euobserver.com/9/25184?rss_rk=1.
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EU launches EQF

On November 26, 2007 education Commissioner Ján Figel and Parliament's Mario Mantovani officially launched the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) for lifelong learning. The EQF will link countries' qualification systems, making qualifications more readable across member states. The EU hopes the EQF will make it easier for citizens to move to another country or work or study.

- Source: European Commission | November 26, 2007
 - To view the European Commission press release, please visit the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1760&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.
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Ready for the Euro

Cyprus and Malta are "well prepared" for the launch of the Euro, a report by the European Commission concluded. Both countries will join the Euro in January 2008 and have ordered notes and coins. But with five weeks to go, public opinion remains mixed, with around two-thirds of the Maltese population and three-quarters of Cypriots expecting price rises.

- Source: European Voice | November 29-December 5, 2007
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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>.