



newsflash

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News from the

Member Federations General CoESS news

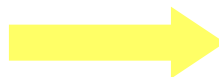
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ACA (Belgium) - new CoESS member!



On January 22, 2008 the CoESS Board of Directors unanimously decided to grant ACA (Alarm Centrale Associatie), the Belgian association of monitoring stations, active membership within CoESS taking effect as of January 1, 2008. CoESS warmly welcomes ACA and trusts that this new affiliation will not only lead to mutual cooperation and added value, but will also constitute a positive development as far as the Belgian situation regarding the representation of our industry is concerned.

- For further information on the structure and activities of ACA, please consult the ACA website (Dutch/ French): <http://www.a-c-a.be>.

Chamber of the Republic of Macedonia of Security of People and Property - new CoESS member!



On January 22, 2008 the CoESS Board of Directors unanimously decided to grant the Chamber of the Republic of Macedonia of Security of People and Property associated membership within CoESS taking effect as of January 1, 2008. CoESS warmly welcomes the Macedonian organization and trusts that this new affiliation will not only lead to mutual cooperation and added value, but will also constitute a positive development as far as your national situation regarding the representation of our industry is concerned.

- For further information on the structure and activities of the Chamber, please consult its website: <http://www.obezbeduvanje.org.mk//Main.aspx>.

PZFO (Polish Security Companies Association) SEYA (Greek Security Companies Association)

At its last meeting on January 22, 2008 the CoESS Board of Directors took note of the fact that **PZFO**, the Polish Security Companies Association, is no longer a CoESS member as it informed the CoESS President and the CoESS Board of Directors that its CoESS membership could not be maintained at present for political reasons. On November 20, 2007 the PZFO Board of Directors decided to dissolve the association. For the past two years, PZFO has worked closely together with the second Polish employers' association in order to create a unified organisation, namely the Polish Security Employers Association, thereby broadening the scope of the association and strengthening its impact. This new joint association will re-evaluate a possible future CoESS membership.

The CoESS Board of Directors also noted that **SEYA**, the Greek Security Companies Association, for internal reasons, has suspended its CoESS membership for 2008. However, it will reconsider a possible renewed CoESS membership as from 2009.

Swedish Workshop Agreement



ALMEGA The Swedish social partners have this fall adopted a Workshop Agreement together with SIS, the Swedish Standards Institute (a member of CEN). The Agreement provides requirements on security organisations and their personnel including health and safety at work. The aim is to guarantee good practice, a high quality of service, good working conditions and a high level of health and safety for the employees. It is intended for all security companies and their employees operating in Sweden. It is applicable on temporary assignments as well as on extended services. A Workshop Agreement is more a more flexible and timelier alternative to the traditional 'Swedish Standard', but one that still possesses the authority derived from the SIS. This Agreement can be further developed to a standard by transferring it to the traditional process of SIS, CEN or ISO. The initiative came from ALMEGA, the Swedish security association, member of CoESS, and the work has been conducted by representatives from our member companies and the Swedish Transport Workers Union.

- Source: ALMEGA | January 15, 2008
- To review the Swedish Workshop Agreement, please consult the CoESS Intranet site: <http://coess.org/intranet/documents.php>. Please note that you will have to login to be able to view the documents. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the General Secretariat.

VPB quality mark for private investigation agencies



VPB, the Dutch security association, member of CoESS, has nearly finalised the quality mark for private investigation agencies. The necessary procedures have now been initiated to formally vote and approve the final quality mark.

- Source: VPB Checklist | December 2007
- For further information, please consult the VPB website: <http://www.vpb.nl/kwaliteit.html>.

VPB CIT quality mark



The first certificate for the VPB CIT quality mark will be awarded shortly to the Dutch Group 4 Securicor Cash Services, which successfully achieved all of the conditions set forth by this new quality mark.

- Source: VPB Checklist | December 2007
- For further information, please consult the VPB website: <http://www.vpb.nl/kwaliteit.html>.

EASA article on 'ACE' - Aviation security Companies Excellence



EASA, the European Aviation Security Association, corresponding member of CoESS, published an article in the December 2007 edition of the Aviation Security International magazine covering ACE, Aviation security Companies Excellence, the quality projects and the necessity of recognising the profession of security agents as a full-fledged profession.

- Source: EASA | December 31, 2007
- To download the article, please consult the Aviation Security International magazine website: <http://publishing.yudu.com/A5j6g/asidec07vol13issue6/resources/41.htm>.

EASA statement on Third Party Liability published on Euractiv.com

On January 25, 2008 Euractiv.com published EASA's statement on the compromise with regard to the New Framework Regulation and the issue of Third Party Liability. EASA's statement can be reviewed on the Euractiv.com website via the following link: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/transport/aviation-security-third-party-liability-issue-addressed-easa/article-169857>.

- Source: EASA | January 25, 2008
- To review EASA's statement, please consult the Euractiv.com website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/transport/aviation-security-third-party-liability-issue-addressed-easa/article-169857>.

SNES - President's Letter January 2008

SNES (Syndicat National des Entreprises de Sécurité), member of CoESS, published its President's Letter for January 2008. This new edition focuses on the intervention of SNES during the colloquium of January 24, 2008 organised by GADPRIS on 'The Private Security Market in France: New Challenges Ahead'.

- To review the President's Letter, please consult the CoESS website: <http://www.coess.eu/Default.htm>.

Supply Chain Security (CEN BT/TF/199)

On December 12, 2007 CoESS participated in the first meeting of the new CEN Taskforce on security in the supply chain (BT/TF/199). As a follow-up to this meeting, the below documents are now available for download to all CoESS members on the CoESS Intranet site:

- Official letter granting CoESS observer status (liaison status) within this Taskforce;
- Draft report of the meeting of December 12, 2007;
- Copy of a presentation given on December 12, 2007 by CEN entitled 'The CEN system';
- Report by the previous expert group on Supply Chain Security entitled 'Protection and Security of the Citizen'. The work of Taskforce BT/TF/199 is based on this report.

CoESS will again participate in the next meeting of the CEN Taskforce BT/TF/199, which is scheduled for mid March 2008.

- To consult the above-mentioned documents, please consult the CoESS Intranet site: <http://coess.org/intranet/documents.php>. Please note that you will have to login to be able to view the documents. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the General Secretariat.

World Security Congress 2007 (Brazil)



From October 23-26, 2007 CoESS participated in the fourth edition of the World Security Congress 2007, organised by the World Security Federation (WSF) and the National Federation of Security and Transport of Valuables Companies (FENAVIST) in Brazil. More than 40 countries were represented during this Congress. Hilde De Clerck, Secretary-General of CoESS, delivered a speech on the European Model of Private Security.

Other speakers focused on topics such as the new challenges of private security in the global world, the business of private security in Latin America, the new model for security companies in Asia and many more. The full programme can be reviewed here: <http://www.worldsecuritycongress.com/ingles/congresso/palestras.htm>.

Working Committee Maritime Security: 9th SAGMaS meeting January 16, 2008 (Brussels)

On January 16, 2008 CoESS actively participated in the 9th SAGMaS (Stakeholder Advisory Group on Maritime Security) meeting in Brussels. The following topics were discussed: IMO security recommendations for non-SOLAS ships, European Security Research and Innovation Forum (ESRIF) and issues raised by the stakeholders.

- To consult the agenda, the report and the working documents related to the SAGMaS meeting, please consult the CoESS Intranet site: <http://coess.org/intranet/documents.php>. Please note that you will have to login to be able to view the documents. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the General Secretariat.
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Working Committee Social Dialogue: Social Dialogue Plenary meeting January 28, 2008 (Brussels)

On January 28, 2008 CoESS actively participated in the Social Dialogue Plenary meeting together with its colleagues from UNI-Europa and the European Commission. The below topics were discussed during the Plenary meeting:

- Modernisation of Work Organisation: MOWO project and 'From Brussels to the Workplace' Conference, October 15 and 16, 2008 in Brussels
 - Follow-up of the joint work programme 2007-2008
 - Implementation and follow-up of the European Social Dialogue
 - Health and Safety dossiers: third party violence (conference March 14, 2008) and work-related stress
 - Tour of Europe
 - Enlargement of the EU
 - Report on the E.W.C. project from UNI-Europa
 - Communications from the European Commission: best value conference, April 18, 2008
- The European Commission's report of this meeting will be communicated as soon as it becomes available.
 - For further information on the workings of the Social Dialogue, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/index_en.htm.
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Working Committee Enlargement: Working Committee Enlargement meeting January 29, 2008 (Brussels)

On January 29, 2008 CoESS actively participated in the Working Committee Enlargement. The agenda covered the following main topics: feedback on objectives of National Country Strategy Plans (NCSPs) in the framework of the Vienna Roadmap, definition of next steps for the Working Committee Enlargement, developments in the national markets and feedback on recent conferences (Romania, Bulgaria and Slovenia).

- The minutes of the Working Committee Enlargement meeting 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.
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New coordinator hopes to make waves in maritime affairs



The European Commission has appointed a 'coordinator of the sea' to find ways of tackling traffic congestion on Europe's roads. Former Portuguese transport Minister Luis Valente de Oliveira says he is charged with the task of 'redirecting' freight traffic from the road to the sea. Specifically, he wants to develop the concept of 'motorways of the seas' - fast-track shipping routes between Europe's ports.

- Source: European Commission | December 20, 2007
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/logistics/freight_logistics_action_plan/doc/memo/memo_maritime_en.pdf.
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Aviation security

The European Parliament is insisting on having the right to veto future aviation security measures which have been agreed by EU Member States. The Parliament is making the demand in conciliation talks with the Council of Ministers over a regulation on aviation security.

MEPs and the Council have already agreed on ways of financing security measures, security checks and sky-marshals. The deadline for the end of the talks is January 16, 2008.

Source: European Voice | December 20, 2007-January 9, 2008

For further information, please consult the European Parliament website:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/062-15678-351-12-51-910-20071217IPR15663-17-12-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm.

EU celebrates Schengen expansion



On December 21, 2007 the EU celebrated the extension of the Schengen border-free zone to the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Commission President José Manuel Barroso, Vice President Franco Frattini, employment Commissioner Vladimir Špidla and education Commissioner Jan Figel will join national Ministers and the Portuguese Presidency as well as European Parliament President Hans-Gert Pöttering for a series of cross-border events across Europe.

- Source: TheParliament.com | December 21, 2007
 - For further information, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/czechs-slovaks-reunited-schengen-passport-free-zone/article-169337>.
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2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion



The European Commission has designated 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The € 17 million campaign aims to reaffirm the EU's commitment to making a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty by 2010.

- Source: European Commission | December 2007
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=326.
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Job mobility action plan to help more people find better jobs



A new action plan to promote job mobility was presented by the European Commission on December 10, 2007. The plan aims to tackle the remaining obstacles faced by people seeking to work in another EU country. It puts forward a new integrated approach and lists 15 concrete actions for the period 2007-2010 involving national, regional and local, as well as European, authorities.

- Source: European Commission | December 2007
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=325.
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Sanctions Directive - Joint statement European sectoral social partners 'live performance'

On December 21, 2007 a joint statement from the European sectoral social partners 'live performance' was launched regarding the European Commission's proposal for a directive on sanctions against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals.

- Source: BusinessEurope | December 21, 2007
 - For further information, please consult the Pearle* website: http://www.pearle.ws/positionpapers_detail?id=22.
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Cyprus and Malta adopt the Euro

On January 1, 2008 the European currency replaced the national currencies of the two Mediterranean islands of Malta and Cyprus, bringing the number of EU Member States using the Euro to 15 out of the 27 Member States. The Euro will replace the Cypriot pound and the Maltese lira, which currently equal € 1.71 and € 2.33 respectively.

- Source: European Commission | January 1, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website on Cyprus (http://ec.europa.eu/cyprus/euro_and_cyprus/index_en.htm) and on Malta (http://ec.europa.eu/malta/index_en.htm).
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EU governments won't have to pay for aviation security

European Union governments will not have to finance the security measures implemented at EU airports, according to a compromise hammered out this week by the European Parliament and the EU Council of Ministers in a so-called 'conciliation procedure' about new draft rules on aviation security. The European Parliament initially echoed concerns voiced by the industry and wanted governments to pay for all security upgrades that supplement basic measures.

- Source: Aviation Daily | January 3, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the Aviation Daily website: http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=aviationdaily&id=news/SEC12207.xml&headline=EU%20Gov%27sWon%27tHave%20To%20Pay%20For%20Aviation%20Security.
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EU unemployment low as risks emerge for growth

EU unemployment continues to be relatively low, new figures have revealed, but confidence in the economy appears to be weakening, with the EU presidency warning that there are "downside risks" to growth. Figures released by EU statistical office Eurostat on January 7, 2008 show that the jobless rate in both the EU as a whole and the Eurozone area is substantially lower than it was a year ago.

- Source: EU observer | January 7, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EU observer website: <http://euobserver.com/9/25408/?rk=1>.
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EU presidency to push for closer ties with Serbia

Slovenia, currently at the helm of the European Union, is set to push for signature of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) - the first step to EU membership - with Belgrade in January 2008. Slovenia's foreign Minister, Dimitrij Rupel, announced the EU bloc would set up a special 'task force' aimed at helping Serbia to speed up its progress towards the agreement, including the country's "even greater cooperation" with the International Crime Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

- Source: EU presidency | January 9, 2007
 - For further information, please consult the EU presidency website: <http://www.eu2008.si/en/>.
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Borg calls for 'greater awareness' of EU maritime sector



EU Commissioner Joe Borg has called for a maritime day on May 20 each year to help raise public awareness of the importance of the maritime sector. The Maltese official says the call is in response to "the widespread desire" among stakeholders to celebrate Europe's maritime heritage. "The aim of the European maritime day will be to highlight the entire web of relationships that bind together maritime and maritime-related issues and activities across Europe," he says.

- Source: European Commission | January 9, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/press/press_rel041207_en.html.
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EU States encouraged to open labour markets to Bulgarians and Romanians

The number of Romanians and Bulgarians seeking to move to other EU countries after Bucharest and Sofia joined the EU on January 1, 2007, has not significantly increased compared to the figures prior to their EU accession, according to a report published by the non-profit Brussels-based organisation European Citizen Action Service (ECAS).

- Source: EU observer | January 16, 2008
 - The full report can be downloaded from the ECAS website: http://www.ecas-citizens.eu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=96&Itemid=1.
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Europe is 'platform' for terrorism, US security chief



On January 16, 2008 newswires reported on an interview that America's head of homeland security gave to the BBC. US homeland security chief Michael Chertoff told the BBC's World News America that the biggest security threat to his country may now come from within Europe. Citing the deadly bomb attacks in Madrid in 2004 and in London in 2005, Chertoff said that the US would likely step up security checks on travellers from Europe.

Chertoff said that most people can now enter the US without being screened and therefore wants tighter security measures to be imposed.


- Source: BBC News | January 16, 2008
- For further information, please consult the BBC News website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/7190788.stm>.

Commission prepares the ground for efficient and fair pricing of transport services

The European Commission has released a comprehensive compilation of existing studies on external costs in the transport sector. This handbook, jointly prepared by several transport research institutes, summarises the state of the art as regards the valuation of external costs. The Commission intends to make use of the handbook as one element which prepares the communication on the internalisation of external costs for all modes of transport that is due in June 2008 and a proposal to revise the directive on the charging of heavy goods vehicles.

- Source: European Commission | January 16, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/54&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

BusinessEurope celebrates its 50th anniversary

 In 2008, BusinessEurope celebrates the 50th anniversary of its organisation. Created in Paris in 1958 and matching the newborn European Community at the time, BusinessEurope has been working for European enterprises, helping them to create a conducive environment for business. This has translated into proactive engagement and support for key policies such as internal market, competition, social dialogue, trade, euro and President Barroso's Growth and jobs Strategy, to name just a few. BusinessEurope is organising several internal and external activities to mark this important year.

- Source: BusinessEurope | January 16, 2008

Eurozone inflation

Annual inflation in what is now the 15-member Eurozone was unchanged at 3.1% in December 2007, according to the latest statistics from Eurostat, the EU's statistical agency. Slovenia registered the highest inflation at 5.7%, followed by Luxembourg and Spain (4.3%). Inflation in the 12 EU countries which are not members of the Eurozone reached 3.2% in December 2007. Latvia had the highest rate at 14%, followed by Bulgaria (11.6%), Estonia (9.7%), Lithuania (8.2%), Hungary (7.4%), Romania (6.7%) and the Czech Republic (5.5%).

- Source: European Voice | January 17-23, 2008
- 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_2008/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2008_MONTH_01/2-16012008-EN-AP.PDF.

'SEPA goes live' - Official launch of the Single Euro Payments Area

On January 28, 2008 to mark the official launch of the SEPA (Single Euro Payments Area), Mr. Charlie McCreevy, Internal Market and Services Commissioner, European Commission, Ms. Gertrude Tumpel-Gugerell, Member of the Executive Board, European Central Bank, and Mr. Gerard Hartsink, Chairman, European Payments Council, organised a high-level SEPA launch event, entitled 'SEPA goes live', with distinguished guests from the EU payments market.

- Source: European Commission | January 21, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/66&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

New website for USP

USP (Union des entreprises de Sécurité Privée), announced the launch of its new website offering additional information and an improved site structure and navigation. The new UPS website can be reviewed here: <http://www.securite-privée.org>. USP is a candidate CoESS member.

- Source: USP | January 21, 2008

New study results support EU pension initiative to aid worker mobility

Supplementary pension schemes continue to pose obstacles to mobility for workers across Europe according to two new independent studies, presented by the European Commission today. The studies support the case for a Europe-wide initiative to improve people's access to supplementary pension rights when changing jobs or working in another EU country. The Commission's proposal for a directive on the issue - revised in October 2007 - forms part of the work programme for the Slovenian EU Presidency.

- Source: European Commission | January 22, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/73&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

Gender equality on EU Commission agenda



On January 23, 2008 the European Commission issued its annual assessment of the stability programmes for Germany, Luxembourg, Finland and the Netherlands and of the convergence programmes for Sweden, Hungary and the UK. The executive is also due to present its fifth annual report on gender equality in which it will identify the main developments of the situation of women and men in a series of policy fields.

- Source: TheParliament.com | January 23, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website:
 - http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/gender_equality/index_en.html
 - <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/79&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
 - <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/75&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
 - <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/76&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

PACE demands review of UN and EU blacklisting procedures for terrorist suspects which 'violate human rights'

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) considers that the procedures used by the UN Security Council and the EU to blacklist individuals and groups suspected of having connections with terrorism violate basic rights and are "completely arbitrary". Its members accordingly insist that they must be reviewed "to preserve the credibility of the international fight against terrorism".

- Source: Council of Europe | January 24, 2008
- For further information, please consult the Council of Europe website:
<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1237597&Site=DC&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>.

Security Europe - January 2008 Flash Alert

Security Europe published the January 2008 edition of its Flash Alert. This edition also offers you some more background information on ESRIF, the newly formed independent European Security Research and Innovation Forum that advises the European Commission on security research policy.

- Source: Security Europe | January 2008
- To review the Security Europe Flash Alert, please consult the CoESS Intranet site: <http://coess.org/intranet/documents.php>. Please note that you will have to login to be able to view the documents. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the General Secretariat.

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

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

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