



News from the

Member Federations General CoESS news

- VPB - Turnover Dutch private security sector 2007
- VPB quality marks
- SNES - Practical Guide on Professional Aptitude as a Prerequisite
- Official signing of partnership agreement between CoESS and RASI
- Forum Liaison meeting - February 11, 2008 (Brussels)
- BusinessEurope's EEN meeting - February 20, 2008 (Brussels)
- UNI-Europa conference on flexicurity (Copenhagen)

Working Committees

- Working Committee Electronic Surveillance - February 27, 2008 (Madrid)

European Union

- Croatia wants EU to speed up membership negotiations
- EU postpones association agreement with Serbia
- ISIA to publish new Industry Magazine
- Euro area unemployment stable at 7.2%
- Treaty of Lisbon
- Slovenia and Malta ratify Treaty of Lisbon
- European Commission wants two systems to track travellers entering the EU
- Judicial forum to ease 'mistrust' between EU Member States
- EU citizens to choose new Euro coin design
- France ratifies EU Treaty
- Treaty ratification
- EU sets up 'Mission for Flexicurity'
- European Commission proposal for Directives on the Admission of Highly Qualified Immigration (the 'blue card' proposal) and on a Single Application Procedure/Single Permit and Common Set of Rights
- US flight security demands ruffle EU feathers
- Top EU officials welcome new 'world regions' group
- Publication of the General Report on the European Union's Activities in 2007
- European Commission presents policy priorities for 2009
- Internal Market Scoreboard - Member States back on track
- European Commission second-stage consultation on active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market
- EU employment rate up to 66% despite moderate economic slowdown
- What skills will Europeans need in the years to come? First EU forecast of skill needs is published
- EU and Ukraine launch free trade agreement negotiations
- Public procurement: European Commission issues guidance on setting up Institutionalised Public-Private Partnerships
- EU Treaty ratification may be delayed in Germany
- Survey on the UK security industry post licensing
- EU terror list criticised
- Belgium plans to open labour markets
- EU radio network launch

VPB - Turnover Dutch private security sector 2007



The Dutch Central Statistics Bureau reported a diminished turnover growth for the Dutch private security sector during the first three quarters of 2007 compared to previous years. In the first and second quarter of 2007 the turnover growth compared to 2006 amounted to 4.7% and 2.5%, which is significantly lower than during the first two quarters of

2005 and 2006. The first two quarters of 2005 and 2006 reported an average turnover growth of more than 8%. The third quarter of 2007 was more favourable to the private security sector with a growth of 6%. During the first quarter of 2008 VPB, the Dutch private security association, member of CoESS, will again perform an industry scan to retrieve statistical data on the Dutch private security industry for 2007, including but certainly not limited to turnover figures.

- Source: VPB Checklist | January 2008
- For further information, please consult the VPB website: <http://www.vpb.nl>.

VPB quality marks



The VPB quality mark for employment agencies will be finalised in spring 2008. The quality mark will be entitled 'Keurmerk Flexbedrijven particuliere beveiliging' (quality mark 'Flexicompanies' private security). The specific quality mark aiming at private investigation agencies is also nearly completed. The latest draft version has been introduced to the ARS companies for their approval.

- Source: VPB Checklist | January 2008
- For further information, please consult the VPB website: <http://www.vpb.nl>.

SNES - Practical Guide on Professional Aptitude as a Prerequisite



In January 2008, SNES, the French private security association, member of CoESS, published its 'Practical Guide on Professional Aptitude as a Prerequisite'. The guide was developed in the framework of the new decree 2007-1181 on security that came into force on January 1, 2008. The 2003 law, called the 'Loi de Sarkozy' or the law of Sarkozy regarding homeland security modified numerous provisions of the 1983 law regarding private security. One of the key provisions of the new law is the requirement for all private security managers and employees, as well as self-employed operatives, to justify and demonstrate their professional aptitude to work in the private security sector.

- Source: SNES | January 2008
- To review the SNES 'Practical Guide on Professional Aptitude as a Prerequisite' (French), please consult the SNES website: http://www.e-snes.org/i_zip/guide_pratique_cqp.pdf.
- To review the text of the 2007-1181 decree (French), please consult the Legifrance website: <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT00000470214&dateTexte=>

Official signing of partnership agreement between CoESS and RASI



On February 4, 2008 CoESS and RASI, the Russian Association of Security Companies, signed a partnership agreement as was announced during the CoESS General Assembly of September 20, 2007 in Brussels. Both Marc Pissens, President of CoESS, and Hilde De Clerck, Secretary-General of CoESS, were present at the official signing ceremony. The signing of this partnership agreement is an excellent instrument allowing both parties involved to exchange information and best practices and to maintain an open communication line between both associations.

- To review the partnership agreement, please consult the CoESS website: http://www.coess.eu/pdf/RASI_agreement.pdf.
- For further information, please consult the RASI website: http://www.rasi.ru/index_eng.php.

Forum Liaison meeting - February 11, 2008 (Brussels)

On February 11, 2008 CoESS participated in the Forum Liaison meeting presided by Mr. Jackie Morin, Head of Unit, European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. This meeting focused specifically on the financing instruments in support of Social Dialogue, managed by unit EMPL.F.1. Furthermore, three best practices were presented in the area of capacity-building.

- The presentations that were given during this Forum Liaison session will soon be made available on the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/forum_en.htm.

BusinessEurope's EEN meeting - February 20, 2008 (Brussels)

On February 20, 2008 CoESS participated in BusinessEurope's European Employers' Network (EEN) meeting.

The agenda covered the following items: tripartite social summit on March 13, 2008, activities in the cross-industry social dialogue, activities in the sectoral social dialogue and update on other social affairs dossiers such as non-discrimination EWCs, immigration, flexicurity, social inclusion, pensions, health and safety and education & training.

- The EEN Monitoring Report can be consulted on the CoESS intranet site: <http://coess.org/intranet/documents.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.

UNI-Europa conference on flexicurity (Copenhagen)

On February 21 and 22, 2008 CoESS delivered a presentation during the conference on 'Flexicurity - What are the challenges for the National and European Social Partners of the services and communication sectors?', organised by its trade union counterpart, UNI-Europa. The two-day conference touched upon several topics in the framework of flexicurity: definition and objectives of flexicurity by ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation), presentation of the Danish model and of the Austrian and Spanish experiences, draft UNI-Europa declaration on a set of common principles on flexicurity and two well-defined panel discussions.

Working Committee Electronic Surveillance - February 27, 2008 (Madrid)

As was agreed during the last Working Committee Electronic Surveillance of November 20, 2007 this Committee meeting was organised in the framework of the SICUR exhibition, the International Security, Safety and Fire Exhibition, which took place in Madrid from February 26 to February 29, 2008. On February 26, 2008 the Working Committee Electronic Surveillance Chairman, Danny Vandormael, delivered a presentation during the joint APROSER-AES workshop 'Private Security in Spain - state of play and possible future need for a legislative reform?' on the content of the project developed by CoESS (monitoring and alarm receiving centre requirements) and on the state of play and concrete developments at national level of similar initiatives. Hilde De Clerck, Secretary-General of CoESS, also delivered a speech on the evolution of the Services Directive in relation to the private security industry and on the topics that are currently being dealt with by the European Commission. On February 27, 2008 the Working Committee Electronic Surveillance focused on the following topics: overview of the inventory/database of monitoring connections, analysis of the different legislations on monitoring, CENELEC workgroup finalising ARC specifications, virtual guarding and the Committees working programme for 2008.

- For further information on the SICUR exhibition, please consult the IFEMA website: <http://www.sicur.ifema.es/ferias/sicur/default.html>.
- The report of the Working Committee Electronic Surveillance of February 27, 2008 will soon be made available on the CoESS intranet site: <http://coess.org/intranet/documents.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.

Croatia wants EU to speed up membership negotiations

Croatia has expressed dissatisfaction with the state of its European Union membership negotiations, claiming it is not getting enough credit from the EU's side for the pace at which it is carrying out internal reforms. "Although we are not displeased (...) I cannot nonetheless state that we are satisfied," Croatia's chief negotiator with the EU, Vladimir Drobnyak, told MEPs on January 29, 2008. The state of talks "does not reflect all the work and effort Croatia has done so far," he added.

- Source: EU observer | January 29, 2008
- For further information, please consult the EU observer website: <http://euobserver.com/9/25558/?rk=1>.

EU postpones association agreement with Serbia

On January 29, 2008 EU foreign affairs Ministers decided to delay the signing of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with Serbia until an unspecified date after the second round of voting in the Serbian presidential elections on February 3, 2008.

- Source: EurActiv | January 29, 2008
- For further information, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/eu-postpones-association-agreement-serbia/article-169909?Ref=RSS>.

ISIA to publish new Industry Magazine

In April 2008, ISIA (Irish Security Industry Association) will publish a new Industry Magazine entitled 'SecureView'. SecureView focus will be its editorial content. Each issue of the magazine will parallel security marketplace and reflect key issues and concerns affecting security end users.

Editorial content will cover a vast range of topics and issues - industry standards and best practice, extensive management and operational training, the regulatory environment, leading technology and systems solutions, case studies, industry profiles, news, information and special articles.

- Source: ISIA | January 31, 2008
- For further information, please consult the ISIA website: http://www.isia.ie/isia/Main/News_Magazine.htm.

Euro area unemployment stable at 7.2%

The Euro area seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate stood at 7.2% in December 2007, unchanged compared to November 2007. It amounted to 7.8% in December 2006. The EU27 unemployment rate was 6.8% in December 2007, compared to 6.9% in November 2007. It amounted to 7.6% in December 2006. In December 2007, the lowest rates were registered in the Netherlands (2.9%) and Denmark (3.1%) and the highest in Slovakia (10.8%) and Spain (8.6%).

- Source: Eurostat | January 31, 2008
- For further information, please consult: the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/08/13&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> and 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_01/3-31012008-EN-AP.PDF.

Treaty of Lisbon



On December 13, 2007 EU leaders signed the Treaty of Lisbon, thus bringing to an end several years of negotiation about institutional issues. The Treaty of Lisbon amends the current EU and EC treaties, without replacing them. It will provide the European Union with the legal framework and tools necessary to meet future challenges and to respond to citizens' demands. The key objectives of the Treaty of Lisbon can be summarised as follows:

- A more democratic and transparent Europe;
 - A more efficient Europe;
 - A Europe of rights and values, freedom, solidarity and security;
 - Europe as an actor on the global stage.
- The amendments to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty establishing the European Community can be reviewed on the CoESS website: http://www.coess.eu/pdf/Lisbon_Treaty.pdf. For further in-depth background information on the Treaty of Lisbon, please consult the European Commission website: http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/glance/index_en.htm.

Slovenia and Malta ratify Treaty of Lisbon

The parliaments of Slovenia and Malta ratified the Treaty of Lisbon on January 29, 2008, following Hungary's ratification in December 2007. The Treaty needs to be ratified by all 27 EU Member States in order to enter into force at the beginning of next year. Only Ireland will hold a referendum, the other Member States will approve the Treaty through parliamentary ratification. On February 27, 2008 the Irish Times reported that an Irish referendum is likely to be held in June 2008. The paper also said that the Irish Parliament approved a wording for the Lisbon Treaty's common defence arrangement, allowing Ireland to opt out of it.

- Source: European Voice | January 31-February 6, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/countries/index_en.htm and the Irish Times website: <http://www.ireland.com/newspaper/frontpage/2008/0227/1203619486045.html>.

European Commission wants two systems to track travellers entering the EU

The European Commission will propose in February 2008 two new systems for tracking and monitoring people entering the EU. One system will require airline passengers to register online before flying to Europe, while the other system will use biometrics to track people entering and leaving the Union through air, land and sea borders. A separate system of collecting information involving airline passengers entering the EU, proposed by the Commission last November 2007, was given broad backing by justice and interior Ministers at a meeting on January 25, 2008.

- Source: European Voice | January 31-February 6, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/freetravel/fsj_freetravel_intro_en.htm.

Judicial forum to ease ‘mistrust’ between EU Member States

On February 5, 2008 the European Commission announced its intention to set up a forum of national experts to help clear the problems with implementing EU justice law. To be launched formally in mid-April 2008, the forum will bring senior judges, lawyers, NGOs and victim support organisations under one roof to work out how to deal with EU justice and criminal law already in place and anticipate problem areas for the future.

- Source: EU observer | February 5, 2008
- For further information, please consult the EU observer website: <http://euobserver.com/9/25605/?rk=1>.

EU citizens to choose new Euro coin design



The EU has asked European citizens to vote and choose the design of a commemorative 2-Euro coin that will be available in the beginning of 2009. The coin will be issued in order to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the launch of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and the creation of the European single currency, the Euro.

- Source: European Commission | February 7, 2008
- For further information, please visit the following websites: <http://www.eurodesigncontest.eu/index.cfm> and http://ec.europa.eu/news/economy/080225_2_en.htm.

France ratifies EU Treaty



The French Parliament approved the EU Treaty, making France the first of the large Member States to ratify the document. Both the National Assembly (336 in favour and 52 against) and the Senate (265 in favour, 42 against) voted strongly in favour of the Lisbon Treaty, a reworking of the rejected constitution containing most of its innovations.

- Source: Le Monde | February 8, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/countries/index_en.htm.

Treaty ratification

Romania’s Parliament ratified the EU’s Treaty of Lisbon. Of 389 deputies, only one voted against and one abstained. Hungary, Malta, Slovenia and France already ratified the Treaty. Ireland is to hold a referendum.

- Source: European Voice | February 7-13, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/countries/index_en.htm.

EU sets up ‘Mission for Flexicurity’



Commissioner Vladimir Špidla announced on February 1, 2008 that the European Commission has set up a fact finding ‘Mission for Flexicurity’. He said in Slovenia: “We have discussed and agreed on Flexicurity principles over the past months. Now it is time to put meat on the bones and put them into practice in the Member States. I am very pleased to announce today the establishment of the Flexicurity Mission and hope that we will be successful in finding efficient ways so citizens will experience concrete benefits of Flexicurity.”

- Source: European Commission | February 8, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=358.

European Commission proposal for Directives on the Admission of Highly Qualified Immigration (the ‘blue card’ proposal) and on a Single Application Procedure/Single Permit and Common Set of Rights

On January 31, 2008 BusinessEurope issued its position paper on the European Commission proposal for Directives on the Admission of Highly Qualified Immigration (the ‘blue card’ proposal) and on a Single Application Procedure/Single Permit and Common Set of Rights.

- Source: BusinessEurope | February 8, 2008

- To review the position paper, please consult the BusinessEurope website:
<http://www.besnesseurope.eu/DocShareNoFrame/docs/1/POEEOJLDPJCEOAPJILOHKDBFPDBW9DBYPD9LTE4Q/UNICE/docs/DLS/2008-00120-E.pdf>.

US flight security demands ruffle EU feathers



The United States confronted the 27-nation EU bloc with a new set of security requirements, including armed sky marshals on transatlantic flights, as part of its ongoing war on terror. Washington tabled for signature a ten-page memorandum of understanding, consisting of seven demands aimed at keeping better track of who wants to enter US territory. However, on February 13, 2008 the European Commission poured cold water on the set of security requirements tabled by Washington, describing the move as ‘unacceptable’ and going ‘too far’. “The text is unacceptable. It’s just way beyond anything that can be done” Jonathan Faull, Head of the Commissions Home Affairs Department stated. On February 18, 2008 the European Commission began to muscle in on a process in which EU Member States bilaterally sign up to new US travel security demands, hoping to achieve a unified approach to the controversial issue.

- Source: Guardian | February 12, 2008
- Source: EUobserver | February 13, 2008
- Source: EUobserver | February 18, 2008
- For further information, please consult the Guardian website:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/feb/11/usa.theairlineindustry> and the EUobserver website:
<http://euobserver.com/9/25657/?rk=1> and <http://euobserver.com/9/25688/?rk=1>.

Top EU officials welcome new ‘world regions’ group



Top EU figures welcomed the creation of a new body representing 12 regional organisations from around the world. The Forum of Global Associations of Regions (FOGAR) was set up to help regional authorities meet the challenges of globalisation. It includes organisations such as the Rennes-based conference of peripheral maritime regions, and the association of European border regions. It also comprises similar organisations in far-flung parts of the world such as the northern forum, an association of regions from the arctic zone, which covers an area from Alaska to Korea.

- Source: CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions) | February 13, 2008
- To review the declaration of the regions on their participation in the governance of globalisation, please consult the CPMR website: http://www.cprm.org/pub/docs/141_en_-_declaration_des_regions-001.pdf.
- For further information on the FOGAR initiative, please consult the CPMR website:
http://www.cprm.org/pub/news/93_presentation_fogar-onu-en.pdf.

Publication of the General Report on the European Union’s Activities in 2007

On February 13, 2008 the European Commission presented the General Report on the activities of the European Union in 2007 to the European Parliament. Highlights of the past year were the signing of the Treaty of Lisbon, the enlargement of the Union to 27 Members, the adoption of common objectives to tackle climate change and the response to the challenges of globalisation.

- Source: European Commission | February 13, 2008
- The General Report can be downloaded from the European Commission website and is available in 22 languages:
<http://europa.eu/generalreport/en/welcome.htm>.

European Commission presents policy priorities for 2009

On February 13, 2008 the Commission presented its Annual Policy Strategy setting out its political priorities for 2009. It outlines the Commission’s policy objectives in five priority areas: growth and jobs, climate change and sustainable Europe, making a reality of the common immigration policy, putting the citizen first, and Europe as a world partner. The Commission will seek to gain approval for its legislative initiatives and also look forward by stimulating debate on the internal market, social agenda and budget reviews.

- Source: European Commission | February 13, 2008
- For further information on the Annual Policy Strategy 2009, please consult the European Commission website:
http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/synthesis/index_en.htm.

Internal Market Scoreboard - Member States back on track

According to the European Commission’s latest Internal Market Scoreboard, on average 1.2% of Internal Market Directives for which the implementation deadline has passed are not currently written into national law, down from 1.6% in June 2007 and equalling the

best-ever result of December 2006. This means that the average deficit is again below the 1.5% interim target agreed by Heads of State in 2001. Member States are also on the right track towards achieving the new 1% target by 2009 as agreed by Heads of State in March 2007, with 15 Member States having already reached this new target. However, Member States too often fail to apply Internal Market rules correctly: only ten Member States have managed to reduce the number of infringement proceedings against them.

- Source: European Commission | February 14, 2008
 - To review the full text of the latest Internal Market Scoreboard, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/score/index_en.htm.
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European Commission second-stage consultation on active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market

On February 15, 2008 BusinessEurope issued its position paper on the European Commission's second-stage consultation of the social partners on active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market.

- Source: BusinessEurope | February 15, 2008
 - To review the position paper, please consult the BusinessEurope website: <http://www.businesseurope.eu/DocShareNoFrame/docs/1/KIIPDHFAPLDLKFHGMAMMOIPDPDBW9DBYEN9LTE4Q/UNICE/docs/DLS/2008-00166-E.pdf>.
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EU employment rate up to 66% despite moderate economic slowdown

An analysis of recent Eurostat figures in a new report released on February 18, 2008 confirms the ongoing steady improvement in the European labour market. As a result, total employment reached 223 million, reflecting an annual increase of over 3.5 million and an increase of over 800,000 from the previous quarter. The EU labour market has continued to benefit from healthy levels of economic growth and ongoing confidence of firms, as well as improvements resulting from past structural reforms.

- Source: European Commission | February 18, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/employment_analysis/quarterly_en.htm.
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What skills will Europeans need in the years to come? First EU forecast of skill needs is published

Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, presented its first forecast of skill needs up to the year 2015. The study 'Future skill needs in Europe: medium-term forecast' concludes that demand for skills and qualifications is being driven upwards in most occupations, including in so-called elementary jobs, by the continuing rise of the service sector and sweeping technological and organisational changes.

- Source: Cedefop | February 18, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the Cedefop website: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/index.asp?section=3&read=3129> and the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/news/culture/080227_1_en.htm.
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EU and Ukraine launch free trade agreement negotiations

On February 18, 2008 EU Commissioner Peter Mandelson and Ukrainian President Viktor Yushenko launched negotiations for a free trade agreement between the EU and Ukraine. The launch of negotiations followed the finalisation of Ukraine's WTO accession process on February 5, 2008, which was a prerequisite for FTA talks. As Ukraine's largest export market by far, the EU is an obvious partner for closer economic ties that will boost trade and investment.

- Source: European Commission | February 18, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/249&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.
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Public procurement: European Commission issues guidance on setting up Institutionalised Public-Private Partnerships

The European Commission published guidance on the founding of Institutionalised Public-Private Partnerships (IPPPs). IPPPs are undertakings jointly held by public and private partners and are usually set up to provide services for the public, in particular at the local level. The Commission's guidance is based on a ruling of the European Court of Justice (C-26/03 "Stadt Halle").

- Source: European Commission | February 18, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/ppp_en.htm.

EU Treaty ratification may be delayed in Germany

Formal ratification of the EU Treaty in Germany may be delayed, meaning the bloc's biggest Member State would not sign off the Treaty in time for it to come into force across all Member States at the beginning of 2009 as planned. According to a report in German daily Die Welt, politicians from the Left Party as well as Peter Gauweiler, a Centre-Right politician from one of the governing parties (CSU), are examining the text of the EU Treaty to see if they can bring a case before the country's constitutional court.

- Source: EUobserver | February 20, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/25690/?rk=1> and the German daily Die Welt: http://www.welt.de/politik/article1696580/Deutscher_Widerstand_gegen_EU-Vertrag_wchst.html.
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Survey on the UK security industry post licensing

New research commissioned by ISIA (Irish Security Industry Association), indicated that while regulating the security industry has been welcomed, there are still unlicensed operators trading and not enough is being done to police them. The research examined the views of a cross section of senior management or company owners within the security industry and is the first research to be carried out since licensing was introduced. A separate study, conducted in tandem with the industry survey, looked at the impact of regulation on purchasers of security services.

- Source: ISIA | February 20, 2008
 - To review the industry survey, please consult the ISIA website: http://www.isia.ie/isia/Files/Survey_Industry_180208.pdf.
 - To review the consumer survey, please consult the ISIA website: http://www.isia.ie/isia/Files/Survey_Customer_180208.pdf.
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EU terror list criticised

Members of the civil liberties committee in the European Parliament have called for changes to the EU's system of putting people on its terror list. The bloc's blacklist is designed to crackdown on terrorist organisations and individuals by freezing their assets and restricting their movements across Europe, but it has attracted mounting criticism recently for the way the list is drawn up. "Again, we find episodes where people were suspected while they had nothing to do with terrorism," Italian socialist MEP Claudio Fava said on February 18, 2008, comparing the existing mechanism with the CIA extraordinary renditions of terrorism suspects to the US authorities.

- Source: EUobserver | February 20, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/25693/?rk=1>.
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Belgium plans to open labour markets

The Belgian Interior Ministry is preparing to lift restrictions on workers from Member States which joined the EU from 2004 onwards. Currently, 'new' EU citizens wanting to work in Belgium need a work permit, accompanied by lengthy administrative procedures, which are only lighter for a limited number of jobs - such as for architects, computer specialists, translators, engineers or nurses. The plans put forward by Belgian Interior Minister Dewael foresee that workers coming from the Central and Eastern European countries that joined the EU four years ago will be allowed to work freely in Belgium as from May 1, 2008 while Bulgarians and Romanians will be free to do so from January 1, 2009.

- Source: EUobserver | February 22, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/25705/?rk=1>.
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EU radio network launch

On February 26, 2008 European Commission Vice-President Margot Wallström and presidents of Deutsche Welle and Radio France International launched the EU radio network. The EU radio network is a consortium of 16 international, national and regional radio stations from 13 European Member States who responded to a Commission call for tender to produce and share programmes with a European perspective.

- Source: European Commission | February 26, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/303&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> and <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/113&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.
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For general information on CoESS, please consult the CoESS website: <http://www.coess.eu>.