



newsflash

May 2008, n° 21

News from the

Member Federations General CoESS news

- Feelings of insecurity continue to decrease (VPB, Dutch CoESS member)
- Private security collective agreement (VPB, Dutch CoESS member)
- ASSA-I Ordinary Annual General Meeting - May 27, 2008 (Brussels)
- Forum Liaison meeting - May 19, 2008 (Brussels)

Working Committees

- CoESS Working Committee Maritime Security - May 5-6, 2008 (Constanta, Romania)
- CoESS Working Committee Social Dialogue - May 6, 2008 (Brussels)
- CoESS Working Committee Enlargement - May 7, 2008 (Brussels)

ASSA-I (Aviation Security Services Association International) (formerly EASA, European Aviation Security Association)

- The Airport Show (June 2-4, 2008 - Dubai)
- AAAE's April/May 2008 Airport Magazine
- Global traffic continues to slow
- Cyprus: new terminals at both major airports will hope to attract additional services
- EU backs down on air security plans
- EU to allow sale of airport slots
- Airline Network News launches 'The Route Shop' in association with ACI Europe
- EU-US launch second round of 'Open Skies' talks

European Union

- Slovakia set to get green light for Euro entry
- Euro area inflation estimated at 3.3%
- Payment Services Directive: the end of the cash era?
- Barroso to focus on social agenda ahead of elections
- 'Old' Europe dropping opposition to new EU workers
- Council ponders sharing data on violent troublemakers
- The PSA issued exemptions for obtaining installer licence
- EU to give extra boost to its neighbours
- Trans-European transport network behind schedule
- Immigration issues discussed with MEPs
- Step up the fight against undeclared work
- European Commission criticises lack of Euro unity on 10th anniversary
- Europe wary of US demand to scan shipping containers
- National Parliaments prepare for bigger role in the EU
- European Commission sets June date for lobbyists register
- New EU Treaty wins approval of Baltic duo
- Danes likely to have two referendums on EU Treaty opt-outs
- Dublin launches EU Treaty 'yes' campaign
- Serbia's pro-Europe forces claim election win
- Euro area on alert against wage increases
- Minimum training level of seafarers
- European Ports Policy
- EU funds refocused on competitiveness and social cohesion
- NATO picks Estonia for high-tech crime centre
- Women and men in decision-making 2007
- Strategic reflection on the future of EU Maritime Transport in the horizon 2008-2018
- European Maritime Day - May 20
- British agreement on agency workers raises hopes for EU-wide deal

News from the Member Federations | General CoESS news

Feelings of insecurity continue to decrease (VPB, Dutch CoESS member)



According to the National Safety Monitor published by Statistics Netherlands and the Ministries of the Interior and of Justice, 20% of the Dutch population aged 15 years and older do not feel safe at times. However, this percentage has fallen for the third year in succession. One quarter of the population reported that they had been the victim of a frequently occurring crime; this too is lower than three years ago.

- Source: VPB Checklist | April-May 2008
 - To review the full press release, please consult the Dutch Statistics Bureau (CBS): <http://www.cbs.nl/NR/rdonlyres/7AF1B02E-F09E-4F4B-A461-B7A5F5CF9F64/0/pb08e029.pdf> (English) and <http://www.cbs.nl/NR/rdonlyres/AC4A1896-0179-45B9-B198-ECD9005074F5/0/pb08n029.pdf> (Dutch).
-

Private security collective agreement (VPB, Dutch CoESS member)



VPB, the Dutch private security association, member of CoESS, reports that the private security collective agreement was ratified. This will have an effect on VBE (association for event security) members. On May 20, 2008 collective agreement negotiations will resume.

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



ASSA-I Ordinary Annual General Meeting - May 27, 2008 (Brussels)

On May 27, 2008 ASSA-I, the Aviation Security Services Association International (formerly EASA, European Aviation Security Association), corresponding member of CoESS, hosted its Ordinary Annual General Meeting presided by Marc Pissens, President of ASSA-I and of CoESS.

Forum Liaison meeting - May 19, 2008 (Brussels)

On May 19, 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, on joint initiatives to promote transparency of qualification systems in a number of sectoral Social Dialogue committees. This meeting focused on the following topics: presentation of current initiatives on qualification passports/certificates in various sectors (horeca, agriculture, personal services and construction), the EU mutual recognition Directives and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

- 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.
-

News from the CoESS Working Committees

CoESS Working Committee Maritime Security - May 5-6, 2008 (Constanta, Romania)

On May 5-6, 2008 the Working Committee Maritime Security organised a two-day meeting in Constanta, Romania. CoESS would hereby like to thank the Romanian federation for their warm welcome and kind hospitality! The Working Committee focused on several topics such as the latest developments within the SAGMaS workgroup, the status of the ISPS training programme for maritime personnel and the connections between maritime security and the supply chain. The Romanian federation invited many representatives of the Constanta Harbour authorities to highlight Constanta Harbour's integrated security system. Mr. Ion Popescu, President of the Romanian federation, delivered a presentation on the activities of the Romanian federation.

- The report of the Working Committee Maritime Security meeting and the presentations that were given during the meeting are 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 these documents. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the General Secretariat.
-

CoESS Working Committee Social Dialogue - May 6, 2008 (Brussels)

On May 6, 2008 CoESS actively participated in the Social Dialogue Working Group meeting together with its colleagues from UNI-Europa and the European Commission. The below topics were discussed:

- Modernisation of Work Organisation (MOWO) project;
 - Implementation and follow-up of the European Social Dialogue;
 - Third Party Violence Seminar (March 14, 2008, Brussels);
 - 'Promoting Best Value through Social Dialogue' Conference (April 18, 2008, Brussels);
 - Work-related stress - joint declaration by CoESS and UNI-Europa;
 - Report on the Slovenian project 'Strengthening Social Dialogue in the Private Security Industry - Networking and Set-up of Mutual Assistance in the EU's Eastern New Member and Candidate Countries';
 - Tour of Europe.
- 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.

CoESS Working Committee Enlargement - May 7, 2008 (Brussels)

On May 7, 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 (IV pillar), definition of next steps for the Working Committee Enlargement and new developments in the national markets.

- The report of the Working Committee Enlargement meeting is 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 this document. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the General Secretariat.

News from the Aviation Security Services Association International (ASSA-I)

The Airport Show (June 2-4, 2008 - Dubai)



The Airport Show will take place in Dubai from June 2-4, 2008. It was established by the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and enjoys the support of all the aviation stakeholders in the Emirates. It is the biggest airport exhibition in the Middle East and one of the biggest worldwide. The organisers expect 600 exhibitors and 6,000 visitors from 80 countries. The exhibition is accompanied by four conferences on Future Airports Aviation Security, Air Traffic Control and Ground Handling.

- Source: The Airport Show | April 28, 2008
- For further information, please consult The Airport Show website: <http://www.theairportshow.com/>.

AAAE's April/May 2008 Airport Magazine

The American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) launched its April/May 2008 issue of Airport Magazine including a cover story on Geographic Information Systems and how they can ease the workload at airports.

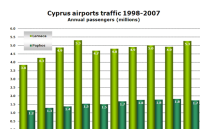
- Source: American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) | April 29, 2008
- To review the April/May 2008 Airport Magazine, please consult the AAAE website: http://issuu.com/mike.candela/docs/d_master_aprmay08?mode=embed&documentId=080424210711-10d352c3ec6e46e6b33818db8b572c05&layout=white.

Global traffic continues to slow

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced global scheduled international traffic data for March 2008. Compared to the same month in 2007, passenger demand increased 5.8% with load factors at 77.7%. Freight traffic grew 3.2%.

- Source: International Air Transport Association (IATA) | May 2, 2008
- To view the full traffic results for March 2008, please consult the IATA website: http://www.iata.org/pressroom/facts_figures/traffic_results/2008-05-02-01.

Cyprus: new terminals at both major airports will hope to attract additional services



Despite joining the EU in May 2004, Cyprus has not seen the same level of air traffic development as other countries that joined at the same time. Traffic at the two commercial airports of Larnaca and Paphos grew by a combined 3.9% last year and passed seven million for the first, but passenger numbers were at similar levels as long ago as 2001. Larnaca's 7.2% growth in 2007 was offset by a 4.7% fall in traffic at Paphos.

- Source: Airline Network News | May 2, 2008
- For further information, please consult the Airline Network News website: <http://www.anna.aero/2008/05/02/cyprus-new-terminals-at-both-major-airports-will-hope-to-attract-additional-services/>.

EU backs down on air security plans

Planned measures to limit the size of baggage that EU travellers may take on board aircraft have been withdrawn for fear of provoking similar chaos at European airports to that caused by the ban on liquids. On May 5, 2008 the European Commission announced that it would not go ahead with plans to introduce a regulation limiting the maximum size of cabin bags to 56cm x 45cm x 25cm. The measure, originally due to be introduced in May 2007, was one of a raft of rules to tighten security on flights.

- Source: European Commission | May 5, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/683&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

EU to allow sale of airport slots



On May 5, 2008 the European Commission adopted a document that opens the door for airlines to trade take-off and landing slots among themselves for the first time, in a bid to overcome growing capacity constraints in Europe's crowded airports. The Communication, adopted on April 30, 2008, finds that existing EU legislation on airport slot allocation does not prohibit so-called 'secondary slot trading', bringing an end to years of discussion. "Today we are recognising for the first time that secondary trading is an acceptable way of allowing slots to be swapped among airlines," said EU transport Commissioner Jacques Barrot.

- Source: European Commission | May 5, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/672&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.
- To review the Commission's Communication, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air_portal/airports/doc/2008_04_30_communication_slots_allocation_en.pdf.

Airline Network News launches 'The Route Shop' in association with ACI Europe

Airline Network News officially opened The Route Shop - the virtual store where airlines can go to browse new air services. Produced in association with the Airports Council International (ACI) Europe, four airports already have placements in The Route Shop offering a total of 23 new long and short-haul services together with information on marketing and financial support.

- Source: Airline Network News | May 9, 2008
- For further information, please consult the Airline Network News website: http://www.anna.aero/2008/05/09/anna-aero-launches-the-route-shop-in-association-with-aci-europe/?utm_source=aa090508&utm_medium=MailChimp.
- To visit The Route Shop, please consult the following website: <http://www.therouteshop.com/>.

EU-US launch second round of 'Open Skies' talks

On May 15, 2008 EU and US negotiators opened the next round of 'Open Skies' negotiations, with Europeans focusing on lowering investment hurdles and access restrictions for EU carriers in the US, moves heavily opposed by the US Congress. The discussions build on an agreement that came into force at the end of March 2008 after four years of tense negotiations, allowing carriers to access any US city from any point in the EU and vice versa.

- Source: Slovenian Presidency | May 15, 2008
- For further information, please consult the Slovenian Presidency website: http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/May/0515MzP_avio_EU_ZDA.html.

News from the European Union

Slovakia set to get green light for Euro entry



Slovakia is to receive the green light to become the 16th Member State of the Eurozone. In its convergence report, the European Commission confirms that the country has met all the conditions to switch to the Euro on January 1, 2009. The convergence report evaluates the economic and fiscal policy development of the EU Member States which are not part of the bloc's monetary union. While the UK and Denmark have an exemption from the Euro, the remaining countries of the 27-nation EU have a legal obligation to join.

- Source: EUobserver | April 29, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/26058/?rk=1>.
-

Euro area inflation estimated at 3.3%

Euro area annual inflation is expected to be 3.3% in April 2008 according to a flash estimate issued by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities. It was 3.6% in March 2008.

- Source: Eurostat | April 30, 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_04/2-30042008-EN-AP.PDF.
-

Payment Services Directive: the end of the cash era?

From November 2009 new EU rules will allow alternative providers such as mobile phone operators to delivery new payment services alongside banks and credit card firms, paving the way for a more efficient non-cash economy. However, details of the actual implementation of the rules in Member States remain unclear.

- Source: European Commission | April 30, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/payments/framework/transposition_en.htm.
-

Barroso to focus on social agenda ahead of elections



The European Commission has embarked on a social policy drive ahead of the European elections in 2009. Commission President José Manuel Barroso - a centre-right politician - gathered his colleagues for a day's discussion on April 29, 2008 focusing on "solidarity, access and opportunities and development of the social agenda." On April 30, 2008 the Brussels executive announced that it would table a 'social package' before summer 2008.

- Source: EUobserver | April 30, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/26071/?rk=1>.
-

'Old' Europe dropping opposition to new EU workers



Germany and Austria are likely to remain among the last 'old' EU Member States to apply next year for an extension of the temporary provision to ban workers from Central and Eastern Europe, five years after their entry in the bloc on May 1, 2004. The restrictions against jobseekers from eight post-communist states are still currently deployed by Germany, Austria, Denmark, France and Belgium. In most of these countries, talks are underway about their next move as the European Commission will require a clear explanation to justify any request to extend barriers up to the last possible moment: 2011.

- Source: EUobserver | April 30, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/26070/?rk=1>.
-

Council ponders sharing data on violent troublemakers

Plans are afoot in the Council of Ministers to increase data sharing on 'violent troublemakers' to prevent them from travelling to major international events. The intention is that Member States would enlarge the scope of data collected in the Schengen Information System (SIS), which is already used to exchange information on lost and stolen cars, suspected terrorists, drug trafficking and trafficking in human beings. According to internal Council documents, Member States would use the SIS to exchange data on "persons to be barred from certain events, such as European summits or similar venues, international sports or cultural events or other mass gatherings," on the grounds that "they are a threat to public order and public security".

- Source: European Voice | April 30, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Voice website: <http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/council-ponders-sharing-data-on-violent-troublemakers/60571.aspx>.
-

The PSA issued exemptions for obtaining installer licence

On March 31, 2008 the Irish Private Security Authority (PSA) issued exemptions to installer applicants (intruder alarm) to allow new contractors to obtain the EN:50131 standard.

- Source: Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA) | May 2, 2008
 - To review these exemptions, please consult the ISIA website: <http://www.psa.gov.ie/psa/psa.nsf/newsitems/EE3D30DD2E48E4FB802574200055ED4A?OpenDocument>.
-

EU to give extra boost to its neighbours

On May 6, 2008 the European Commission launched a new initiative aimed at increasing investments in its southern and eastern partner countries, the main focus of which will be on infrastructure projects in the energy, transport and environment sectors. The new Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF), equipped with a € 700 million budget until 2013, is to become a key instrument of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which the EU set up in 2004 to improve its ties with countries in North Africa, the Middle East and former Soviet republics.

- Source: European Commission | May 5, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/678&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.
-

Trans-European transport network behind schedule



Efforts to link up Europe's transport networks - road, rail and waterway - are behind schedule and over budget, according to an EU report presented by transport Commissioner Jacques Barrot. The price tag attached to such efforts has climbed 16.8 percent on original projections to around € 400 billion. Additionally, large sections of the network have yet to be completed, according to the report. "It is very clear today that significant parts of the 30 priority projects will not be completed until 2015 or even 2020," read the report.

- Source: EUobserver | May 7, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/26094/?rk=1>.
-

Immigration issues discussed with MEPs

In meetings with MEPs, BusinessEurope again outlined its views on two key proposals on immigration, the so-called EU blue card proposal and the proposal for a sanctions directive. Due to our ageing population and the increasing skills shortages for companies, Europe needs more highly skilled workers from non-EU countries. BusinessEurope therefore warmly welcomed the blue card proposal. It does, however, criticise some issues on grounds of subsidiarity and the inclusion of exaggerated demands for minimum wages. BusinessEurope also expressed its support for the objective of the sanctions directive, i.e. fighting illegal employment, but insisted that the priority should be to enforce existing legislation at national level.

- Source: BusinessEurope | May 7, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the BusinessEurope website: <http://212.3.246.117/docs/1/OIHJKHFAHIKGAAKBECJLNGBPDBW9DBYPD9LTE4Q/UNICE/docs/DLS/2008-00120-E.pdf>.
-

Step up the fight against undeclared work



On May 6, 2008 BusinessEurope participated in a seminar on undeclared work organised by its Hungarian member federation. Public authorities and social partners have a joint responsibility to fight undeclared work. European social partners have dealt with the issue of undeclared work in various ways in recent years, most recently through their joint labour market analysis. At EU level, the effective implementation of the Posting of Workers Directive - through improved access to information and better administrative cooperation by Member States - will give a much needed boost to the fight against undeclared work.

- Source: BusinessEurope | May 7, 2008
- For further information, please consult the BusinessEurope website: <http://212.3.246.117/docs/2/OIHJKHFAHIKGAAAKBECJLNGBPDBW9DB3GD9LTE4Q/UNICE/docs/DLS/2008-00740-E.pdf>.

European Commission criticises lack of Euro unity on 10th anniversary

Celebrating the Euro's 10th jubilee, the European Commission praised the single currency's successes, but lamented the Eurozone's lack of a single voice in the global arena. Meanwhile, Slovakia was given the green light to adopt the Euro in 2009 despite concerns over its ability to restrain inflation. Presenting progress reports on the Euro to MEPs on May 7, 2008, Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Joaquin Almunia called the single currency a "resounding success", saying it has "delivered sustained price stability on a scale that many, if not all, had never previously enjoyed."

- Source: European Commission | May 7, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/716&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

Europe wary of US demand to scan shipping containers

Europe's shipping and ports industry is anxiously awaiting the verdict of the United States on the feasibility of a massive increase in anti-terrorism scanning of shipping containers. On May 8, 2008 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) presented the results of three pilot projects to Congress. The price tag of a full roll-out of the scheme looks increasingly unacceptable to European industry, which is backed in its opposition by the European Commission. The results of pilot projects will be a factor in the US decision on how to proceed with the controversial scheme. The pilot projects involved 100% scanning of all containers bound for the US, using X-ray or gamma-ray imaging systems and radiation detection - an approach that is to be demanded by 2012 from all ports that ship containers to US territory.

- Source: European Voice | May 8, 2008
- For further information, please consult the European Voice website: <http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/europe-wary-of-us-demand-to-scan-shipping-containers/60673.aspx>.

National Parliaments prepare for bigger role in the EU

Following the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) in Brdo, Slovenia, on May 7-8, 2008, Members of Parliament from across the EU have begun developing an embryonic strategy to deal with new provisions contained in the EU's Lisbon Treaty that would significantly increase their powers within the EU. National MEPs underlined the need to develop novel mechanisms to make use of these new rights and powers.

- Source: European Parliament | May 8, 2008
- For further information, please consult the COSAC website: <http://www.cosac.eu/en/>.

European Commission sets June date for lobbyists register

The European Commission has identified June 23, 2008 as the target for the publication of a voluntary lobbyists register and accompanying code of conduct, Administration and Anti-Fraud Commissioner Siim Kallas announced on May 8, 2008 following the adoption in Parliament of a landmark report on lobbying.

- Source: European Parliament | May 8, 2008
- To review the full lobbying report, please consult the European Parliament website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2008-0197+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>.
- For further information, please consult the European Parliament website: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/001-28227-128-05-19-901-20080430IPR28012-07-05-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm.

New EU Treaty wins approval of Baltic duo

On May 8, 2008 the Lisbon Treaty passed through the Latvian and the Lithuanian Parliaments by large majorities, increasing the number of countries having approved the text to 13 out of 27. In Latvia, 70 out of 74 MPs voted in favour of the Treaty, while Lithuania's assembly approved it with an 83 to five majority amid 23 abstentions. The document now only requires the signature of each country's president to be finally adopted.

- Source: European Commission | May 9, 2008
 - To review the European Commission Statements, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/pdf/statement_080508_1.pdf (Latvia) and http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/pdf/statement_080508_1.pdf (Lithuania).
 - For further information, please consult the Slovenian Presidency website: http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/May/0508Lizbonska_Latvija_Litva.html.
-

Danes likely to have two referendums on EU Treaty opt-outs



The Danish centre-right government has launched negotiations with opposition parties to agree on a strategy for scrapping opt-outs from the EU treaties, with the government hoping to abolish the derogations in two steps, according to Danish media reports. Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen is set to call for a referendum in September 2008 to remove the derogation from judicial and defence cooperation and at the same time announce a subsequent referendum on the Euro.

- Source: EUobserver | May 9, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/26115/?rk=1>.
-

Dublin launches EU Treaty 'yes' campaign



The Irish government has launched its campaign in favour of the EU Treaty with the new Prime Minister, Brian Cowen, calling for a 'yes' vote in next month's (June 12, 2008) referendum. "It would be a very backward step to resign from the strategic political positioning we have established in 35 years of EU membership," Mr. Cowen said on May 12, 2008. "It would have very serious implications."

- Source: European Parliament Office in Ireland | May 12, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Parliament Office in Ireland website: http://www.europarl.ie/lisbontreaty_ref.html.
-

Serbia's pro-Europe forces claim election win



The European Union is set to breathe a sign of relief as the pro-Western alliance led by President Boris Tadic won the Parliamentary elections on May 11, 2008, but the country's nationalists have warned that they too can hammer out a coalition government. According to projected election results reported by an independent monitoring group, the Centre for Free Elections and Democracy (CeSID), Mr. Tadic's Democratic Party and its allies gained 38.7 percent of the votes and secured 103 out of 250 seats in the country's Parliament - not enough to form a coalition on his own.

- Source: Centre for Free Elections and Democracy (CeSID) | May 12, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the CeSID website: <http://www.cesid.org/eng/index.jsp>.
-

Euro area on alert against wage increases



With inflationary pressure in the Eurozone heating up, its economic chiefs have intensified calls on trade unions to avoid demands for wage increases and suggested the EU should consider measures to discourage "scandalous" financial bonuses for departing executives. The annual level of consumer price gains across the single currency area slowed to 3.3 percent in April 2008 from 3.6 percent in March 2008, according to Eurostat, the EU's statistical office. The European Commission recently raised its forecast for Eurozone inflation this year to 3.2 percent, 0.6 percentage points more than it predicted in February 2008.

- Source: EUobserver | May 14, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/26131/?rk=1>.
-

Minimum training level of seafarers

The recast of the Directive on a minimum level of training of seafarers (2001/25/EC) was adopted by the TRAN Committee (European Parliament Committee on Transport and Tourism). The Directive is an important instrument for the Community and contributes to maritime safety and environmental protection in the seas. It also addresses issues on the certification of diplomas in a globalised maritime market. The proposal is linked to the revisions of the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) Convention of Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW). The proposal is expected to be adopted in plenary on June 11, 2008.

- Source: European Parliament Committee on Transport and Tourism | May 15, 2008
 - To review the Directive on a minimum level of training of seafarers, please consult the Eur-Lex website: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2001/L_136/L_13620010518en00170041.pdf.
-

European Ports Policy

The European Parliament Committee on Transport and Tourism held a first exchange of views on the own initiative report by Mr. Ortuondo Larrea on European Ports Policy, following a European Commission Communication published in October 2007. In his presentation, the rapporteur stressed the impact of international developments, specifically the widening of the Panama Canal and investment in Mediterranean ports outside the EU, on EU ports and their futures. In the debate, the Committee Members wished to situate the Commission Communication in the context of possible future legislative initiatives and the general direction of Transport policy. The rapporteur will prepare an explanatory statement and draft resolution by the end of May 2008.

- Source: European Parliament Committee on Transport and Tourism | May 15, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Parliament website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5581422>.
-

EU funds refocused on competitiveness and social cohesion

Member State governments are refocusing the EU's cohesion policy to boost workers' qualifications, education and employability, the European Commission said at the conclusion of negotiations on funds allocated for the 2007-2013 period. In its Communication, the Commission concluded that "discussions with Member States, regions, partners and local actors demonstrated that the policy had acted as a catalyst for change."

- Source: European Commission | May 15, 2008
 - To review the European Commission's Communication, please consult the European Commission website: http://www.euractiv.com/29/images/COM-08-301%20en_tcm29-172372.pdf.
-

NATO picks Estonia for high-tech crime centre

One year after government websites in EU state Estonia were crippled by a series of cyber attacks, NATO has moved to set up a centre on cyber defence in the country's capital, Tallinn. On May 14, 2008 seven NATO members - Estonia, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Spain - signed a pact formally establishing a so-called Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence.

- Source: NATO | May 15, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the NATO website: <http://www.nato.int/docu/update/2008/05-may/e0514a.html>.
-

Women and men in decision-making 2007

The European Commission recently published its report on 'Women and men in decision-making 2007'. It is a part of the follow-up to the Commission's Roadmap for Gender Equality 2006-2010. It contains a specific section on the gender balance in European social partner organisations (page 40-42).

- Source: European Commission | May 16, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/women_men_stats/index_en.htm.
 - To review the full report, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/publications/2008/ke8108186_en.pdf.
-

Strategic reflection on the future of EU Maritime Transport in the horizon 2008-2018

The European Commission has initiated a strategic reflection into the best ways to ensure a prosperous future for European shipping. Maritime transport carries 90% of European imports and exports and 40% of intra-EU trade. The availability of quality shipping services is crucial for the EU trade and security of energy supply. Europe needs to guarantee that maritime transport can accommodate the fast changes in the globalised world and look into a bright future.

- Source: European Commission | May 19, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/760&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.
-

European Maritime Day - May 20



The European Maritime Day will be celebrated on May 20 each year. This year's events included a stakeholder conference in Brussels on May 19-20, 2008 focusing on the regional approach to the implementation of Maritime Policy and dialogue with stakeholders. The European Maritime Day will be an occasion to highlight the crucial role played by the Oceans and Seas and will contribute to a better visibility of the maritime sectors and more recognition of the importance they play in everyday life.

- Source: European Commission | May 20, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritime-day-2008_en.html.
-

British agreement on agency workers raises hopes for EU-wide deal



On May 20, 2008 Britain agreed to give temporary - or agency - workers the same rights as permanent workers, with the move widely welcomed by Brussels as offering a window of opportunity to reach an EU-wide deal on the matter. Under the British agreement, temporary workers would be given the same rights as permanent staff with regard to pay, overtime arrangements and holiday entitlement after 12 weeks spent on a given job.

- Source: Guardian | May 20, 2008
 - For further information, please consult the Guardian website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/feedarticle/7528630>.
-

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>.