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## News from the Member Federations | General CoESS news

### Businesses be aware of regulation of the security industry in Northern Ireland



The British Security Industry Association (BSIA), active member of CoESS, has published new advice to Northern Ireland's business community ahead of the introduction of regulation of the security industry. From December 1, 2009, it will be illegal to work in certain designated security roles in Northern Ireland without a licence. This includes working as a contract security officer, door supervisor or a cash-in-transit courier. To support businesses in the run-up to licensing, the BSIA has produced a new guide to regulation of the security industry in Northern Ireland. The guide can be downloaded from the BSIA website:

[http://www.bsia.co.uk/web\\_images/publications/Ni\\_Regulation.pdf](http://www.bsia.co.uk/web_images/publications/Ni_Regulation.pdf).

- ➔ Source: British Security Industry Association (BSIA) | June 8, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the BSIA website: <http://www.bsia.co.uk/home/NOAHDN639081?backlinktype=home>.

### Federation of Security Services (FSS) (Romanian CoESS member)

Following its June 9, 2009 General Assembly, a new Romanian umbrella federation was created uniting the three existing Romanian private security associations, i.e. ARIS, ARTS and PSS. The new federation was baptised Federation of Security Services (FSS) and is active member of CoESS. The two-year presidency of FSS will rotate between ARIS, ARTS and PSS. This year, Ion Popescu has been elected President of FSS. Gabriel Badea and Silviu Clep were appointed Vice-Presidents. The Board of Directors is composed of the following members: Nicu Raducanu, Liviu Vladulescu, Nicu Stefan, Liviu Tarsa, Stelian Arion, and Liviu Mateescu.

- ➔ Source: Federation of Security Services (FSS) | June 9, 2009

### Aproser (Spanish CoESS member) - new Board of Directors



The General Assembly of Aproser, the Spanish private security association, active member of CoESS, that took place on June 15, 2009 has re-elected the Aproser Board of Directors for a period of one year. During this period, Carlos Bañuelos (Securitas) will act as President, Alejandro Corominas (Prosegur) will act as Vice-President and Carlos Blanco (Eulen Seguridad) as Treasurer. Alfonso Tomás (Falcon Seguridad), José Antonio Reyes (Vinsa), José Luis Novales (Segur Ibérica) and Georges López (Loomis Spain) will also be members of the Board for this period.

- ➔ Source: Aproser | June 15, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the Aproser website: [www.aproser.es](http://www.aproser.es).

### 2010 ESTA Business Conference, Exhibition and General Assembly



The European Security Transport Association (ESTA), corresponding member of CoESS, is pleased to announce the confirmed dates of its next Annual Business Conference, Exhibition and General Assembly to be held in Porto, Portugal, from June 13, 2009 to June 15, 2009.

- ➔ Source: European Security Transport Association (ESTA) | June 16, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the ESTA website: <http://www.esta-cash.eu/en/events/index.html>.

### APEG-BVBO (Belgian CoESS member) - new President and Vice-President



Following its Annual General Assembly of June 17, 2009, APEG-BVBO, the Belgian private security association, active member of CoESS, is proud to announce that the following persons were unanimously elected for a period of two years: Aimé Lyagre (Country President, Securitas Services Belgium) as President of APEG-BVBO

and Pieter Van den Nieuwenhuizen (Managing Director, G4S Security Services Belgium) as Vice-President of APEG-BVBO.

- ➔ Source: APEG-BVBO | June 17, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the APEG-BVBO website: <http://apeg-bvbo.be/?CategoryID=259&ArticleID=544>.

## Decrease in demand for private security services in Spain (first quarter 2009)



In June 2009, Aproser, the Spanish private security association, active member of CoESS, presented its data regarding the evolution of guarding and CIT services during the first quarter of 2009. During this period, there was a sudden decrease in the demand for private security services. First quarter 2009 demand was 3.11% lower than in the same period in 2008. For the first time in history, there has been a decrease in the demand for services during two consecutive quarters. Over the last 12 months, the decrease in growth levels represents approximately 7% (4% of inter-annual increase in the first quarter of 2008 compared to a decrease of 3% in the first quarter of 2009). Decrease in CIT is closer to 10%.

- ➔ Source: Aproser | June 22, 2009
- ➔ To consult the full press article (in Spanish), please consult the Aproser website: [www.aproser.es](http://www.aproser.es).

## Industry involvement in Olympic and Paralympics safety and security planning

London 2012 security planners in the UK Home Office are inviting members of the security industry to an innovative workshop on national coordination. This event, held by the government's Olympic and Paralympic Security Directorate (OSD), is aimed at raising awareness of Games security planning, and drawing on the widespread experience and expertise in the private sector. The event will take place on July 16, 2009 at the Metropolitan Police Service training centre at Hendon and is being staged with the help of the UK Security and Resilience Industry Suppliers' Community (RISC). RISC brings together the UK industrial community to support the UK government in creating a more secure and safe environment for UK citizens. RISC has helped the OSD work with the family of trade associations and think tanks that support it. These include the British Security Industry Association (BSIA), active member of CoESS, the Defence Manufacturers Association (DMA), Intellect and the Society of British Aerospace Companies.

- ➔ Source: Olympic and Paralympic Security Directorate (OSD) | June 24, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the Olympic and Paralympics website: <http://www.london2012.com/>.

## TranSec World Expo - June 3-4, 2009 (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)



From June 3-4, 2009 CoESS and ASSA-I actively participated in the TranSec World Expo that was organised in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. TranSec brought together the leading technologists and thinkers in two days of informed debate on current issues and challenges within the transport arena. This year, special focus was given to aviation and maritime security through two thematic conferences: Aviation Security Conference and Maritime & Supply Chain Security Conference. Ms. Hilde De Clerck, Secretary-General of CoESS and ASSA-I, chaired the Aviation Security Conference on both days.

- ➔ The presentations that were given during both thematic conferences are available on the TranSec website: <http://www.transec.com/page.cfm/Link=112/t=m/nocache=true>.

## Practical guidelines for the movement of private security guards within the European Union and between the European Union and third countries

CoESS and UNI europa are pleased to announce that the European Commission approved their joint 'mobility project' entitled 'Practical guidelines for the movement of private security guards within the European Union and between the European Union and third countries'. This project was submitted following the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) call for proposals VP/2009/001 under Budget Heading 04.03.03.01 in the framework of the European Social Dialogue. CoESS and UNI europa wish to develop a practical and easy-to-use cross-reference toolkit, which aims to provide both private security guards and private security companies throughout the EU with highly practical information to ease the transition of private security workers from one European country to another. The toolkit will therefore explore the current legal framework in each of the European countries and will examine entrance, training, operational and social dimensions. The scope of the toolkit is twofold and will focus on a) the mobility of workers between the 27 EU Member States and b) the mobility of workers between the 27 EU Member States and third countries. CoESS and UNI europa are convinced that this toolkit not only complements the current European initiatives that are being undertaken to fully accomplish a single European market, but also answers some of the questions and challenges related to active inclusion, social protection, flexicurity and current and future harmonisation and standardisation efforts.



### Forum Liaison - June 25, 2009

On June 25, 2009 the Forum Liaison meeting took place, during which the following topics were discussed: introduction and recent developments in European Social Dialogue and Industrial Relations, the European Transparency Initiative (ETI), the European Commission's gender pay gap campaign and social partner activities on gender equality, update on the ongoing review of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue and functioning of European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees, new sectoral publications by the Commission: "Monthly labour market monitor", "Recent developments in Sectoral Social Dialogue", "Updated sectoral overview 2009" and "Services sectors in the context of the economic crisis".

- ➔ The working documents that were discussed during the Forum Liaison meeting of June 25, 2009 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 consult the document. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the CoESS General Secretariat.

## News from the CoESS Working Committees

### CoESS/ESTA Working Committee CIT - June 12, 2009 (Brussels)

On June 12, 2009 CoESS and ESTA organised a joint Working Committee CIT focusing specifically on the European Commission White Paper on 'Professional Cross-Border Transportation of Euro Cash by Road between Member States in the Euro Area' that was adopted on May 18, 2009.

- ➔ For further information and to review the White Paper, please consult the European Commission website: [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/thematic\\_articles/article15105\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/thematic_articles/article15105_en.htm).
- ➔ The minutes of the CoESS/ESTA Working Committee CIT of June 12, 2009 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 consult the document. In case you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the CoESS General Secretariat.

### CoESS Working Committee Social Dialogue - RESPECT - Effective approaches to tackling third party violence in the workplace

CoESS, HOSPEEM, CEMR-EP and EuroCommerce have recently launched the RESPECT project 'Effective approaches to tackling third party violence in the workplace' in response to the autonomous framework agreement on dealing with violence and harassment in the workplace and in the framework of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue. On July 1, 2009 a joint employers/trade unions

working group meeting will be organised to discuss the draft findings of the respective third party violence projects and to help prepare the joint conference that will take place in October 2009 in Brussels.

- ➔ To review the autonomous framework agreement on dealing with violence and harassment in the workplace, please consult the European Commission website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/news/2007/apr/harassment\\_violence\\_at\\_work\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/news/2007/apr/harassment_violence_at_work_en.pdf).

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

### Aviation Logistics Network takes off

The commercial aviation industry has no better demonstration of the adage that “time is money” than when an aircraft is grounded for repairs or from the lack of a vital engineering part. Aircraft can only earn revenue for their operators when they are in flight. The Aviation Logistics Network (ALN) has been formed to provide the airline industry with a bespoke logistics service providing all aspects of the aircraft parts supply chain, from sourcing of parts through to airside delivery of time-critical AOG (Aircraft On Ground) spares and services to Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) stations worldwide. Three of Europe’s leading independent freight forwarding and logistics companies - Central Global Cargo (Germany), Qualitair & Sea (France) and Davies Turner Aviation (UK), a division of Davies Turner Air Cargo - have come together to found ALN. All three founding forwarders are AEO accredited.

- ➔ Source: Aviation Logistics Network (ALN) | June 10, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the ALN website: <http://www.aviationlogisticsnetwork.de/index.cfm>.

### EU airports pledge to cut CO2 to zero

Thirty-one European airports including Paris Charles de Gaulle launched a joint programme on June 16, 2009 to cut their carbon dioxide emissions to zero, airports body ACI Europe said. But ACI Europe’s scheme did not set a deadline for airports to become carbon neutral, largely by cutting emissions from ground transport, boosting renewable energy and reducing the energy consumption of buildings. The Airport Carbon Accreditation scheme covers about 26% of passenger traffic in Europe and includes some of Europe’s biggest airports, including Frankfurt, Athens, Dublin, Amsterdam’s Schiphol, Italy’s Milan Malpensa and Orly in Paris.

- ➔ Source: ACI Europe | June 16, 2009
- ➔ For further information on and to review the Airport Carbon Accreditation scheme, please consult the ACI Europe website: [http://www.aci-europe.org/upload/09\\_06\\_16%20-%20European%20airports%20actively%20engaging%20on%20reducing%20CO2%20despite%20the%20crisis%20PRESS%20RELEASE.pdf](http://www.aci-europe.org/upload/09_06_16%20-%20European%20airports%20actively%20engaging%20on%20reducing%20CO2%20despite%20the%20crisis%20PRESS%20RELEASE.pdf) and the Airport Carbon Accreditation website: <http://www.airportcarbonaccreditation.org/>.

### Airline rules suspended

On June 8, 2009 Ministers agreed to suspend temporarily rules obliging airlines to fly allocated routes at least 80% of the time or lose their airport slots. Ministers said the measure was needed to help airlines cope with the economic crisis. The derogation will apply for the summer 2009 flying season, meaning airlines that do not meet the 80% threshold will still be guaranteed their slots in summer 2010.

- ➔ Source: European Voice | June 11-17, 2009

### Commission clears proposed takeover of SN Brussels Airlines by Lufthansa

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the proposed acquisition of SN Airholding (SNAH), the holding company of the Belgian commercial airline SN Brussels Airlines, by Deutsche Lufthansa AG of Germany. The decision is conditional upon the implementation of a set of remedies, offered by Lufthansa to alleviate the Commission’s competition concerns. In January 2009, the Commission opened an in-depth inquiry to further investigate the potential impact of the proposed transaction on passenger transport on a number of routes between Belgium and Germany and Belgium and Switzerland. The in-depth investigation confirmed that the transaction, as originally notified, would have raised competition concerns on the routes Brussels-Frankfurt, Brussels-Munich, Brussels-Hamburg and Brussels-Zürich. To address these concerns, Lufthansa submitted a set of remedies, offering an efficient and timely slot allocation mechanism that would allow new entrants to operate flights on each of the

four routes where the Commission had concerns. In the light of the commitments, the Commission concluded that the proposed transaction would not significantly impede effective competition in the European Economic Area (EEA) or any substantial part of it.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | June 22, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website:  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/974&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

## IATA: passenger decline stabilises - some improvement in freight

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced international scheduled traffic results for May 2009 showing passenger demand declining 9.3% compared to the same month in 2008, while freight demand was down by 17.4%. International passenger load factors stood at 71.2%, down from 74.5% recorded in May 2008. The 17.4% decline in international cargo demand is a relative improvement compared to the 21.7% drop in April 2009. Since December 2008, cargo demand has been moving sideways in the -20% range. This is one of the first physical signs of the economic recovery being anticipated in equity markets. International passenger demand weakened from the -3.1% recorded in April 2009 to -9.3% in May 2009. But both of the past two months have been slightly stronger than the 11.1% decline reached in March 2009, even after adjusting for the distortions caused by the timing of Easter. This indicates that a floor may now have been reached. However, the capacity adjustment of -5.0% in May 2009 did not keep pace with the fall in demand during the same month. Moreover, although the impact of the recession appears to be stabilising, strong headwinds from debt and low asset prices are expected to weaken and delay any significant recovery.

- ➔ Source: IATA | June 25, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the IATA website: <http://www.iata.org/pressroom/pr/2009-06-25-01.htm>.

## VAT: European Commission requests United Kingdom to modify its legislation regarding the exemption for aircraft

The European Commission has formally requested the United Kingdom to amend its legislation governing the VAT exemption for transactions related to aircraft, since it is based on criteria different from, and inconsistent with, those employed in the VAT Directive. The request is communicated in the form of a 'reasoned opinion' (second step of the infringement procedure provided for in Article 226 of the EC Treaty). If, within two months, the relevant national rules are not amended in order to comply with the reasoned opinion, the Commission may decide to refer the matter to the European Court of Justice.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | June 25, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website:  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1016&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

## News from the European Union

### Cargo theft on the rise in the EU



Criminal organisations are taking advantage of the increasing amount and value of goods which are transported as road freight within the EU. The criminals are well-organised and operate across borders. In order to minimise cargo theft, both law enforcement authorities and the industry have acknowledged the need to share information and intelligence to combat this growing type of crime. Cargo theft is a crime area which is also becoming more violent in terms of physical attacks on drivers. One of the latest 'hot' categories for cargo thieves is metal such as nickel, copper and even scrap. However, it is still easily re-saleable goods like alcohol, computers, name brand clothing, cigarettes and prescription drugs representing the largest share of stolen property.

- ➔ Source: European Commission and Europol | May 29, 2009
- ➔ To review the Europol Cargo Theft Report, please consult the Europol website:  
[http://www.europol.europa.eu/publications/Serious\\_Crime\\_Overviews/Cargo\\_Theft\\_Report.pdf](http://www.europol.europa.eu/publications/Serious_Crime_Overviews/Cargo_Theft_Report.pdf).

## Jobless total rises

Unemployment in the Eurozone hit its highest level since 1999 in April, reaching 9.2% of the working population, or 14.6 million people, according to Eurostat, the EU's Statistical Office. Unemployment in the EU27 reached 8.6% in April, or 20.8 million, the highest since January 2006. The jobless total increased to 18.1% in Spain, 17.4% in Latvia and 16.8% in Lithuania. It fell in just two countries, Romania and Greece.

- Source: Eurostat | June 2, 2009
- For further information, please contact the Eurostat website: [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_PUBLIC/3-02062009-AP/EN/3-02062009-AP-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/3-02062009-AP/EN/3-02062009-AP-EN.PDF).

## European Commission issues jobs plan

A € 19 billion plan to kick-start Europe's job market during the economic crisis has been welcomed by SMEs, but was dismissed by unions and business groups as misguided. In a Communication designed to curb the threat of mass unemployment, the EU Executive is to make € 19 billion available to support people hit by the economic crisis. Business and NGO lobbies, however, dismissed the plan as lacking ambition. The plan includes loans to those struggling to find the necessary credit to start a business. A range of training schemes for small businesses and apprenticeships for young unemployed people are proposed, as well as programmes to help match jobseekers with vacancies.

- Source: European Commission, trade unions and business groups | June 3, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/859&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>, the ETUC website: <http://www.etuc.org/a/6230>, the BusinessEurope website: <http://212.3.246.117/docs/1/MPHLCJMCMMKPBIPAOJHHEHOPDBG9DWYGD9LTE4Q/UNICE/docs/DLS/2009-01240-E.pdf> and the UEAPME website: [http://www.ueapme.com/IMG/pdf/090603\\_pr\\_comm\\_empl.pdf](http://www.ueapme.com/IMG/pdf/090603_pr_comm_empl.pdf).

## Disagreement over social security draft

Ministers are expected to discuss legislation that would make it easier for non-EU citizens to move around the Union without losing social security entitlements. But the German and Austrian government have expressed concerns about the draft. The legislation would revise an existing EU law, dating back to 2003, which places a general obligation on Member States to grant non-EU citizens who work on their territory equal access to social security entitlements (such as family allowances, pensions and healthcare) irrespective of whether their main home is in another Member State.

- Source: European Voice | June 4, 2009

## Irish Lisbon guarantees raise questions



Ireland is busy working on legal wording to make the Lisbon Treaty more palatable to Irish voters, but its EU partners have raised concerns about the scope of the texts and some impatience at the pace of the work. End of May 2009, officials from Dublin met representatives from the 26 other Member States to shed some light on what kind of wording Ireland is looking for in order to ensure the greatest chance that its citizens will vote 'Yes' the second referendum on the Treaty, scheduled for autumn 2009.

- Source: EUobserver | June 4, 2009
- For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/28240>.

## Visions on the future of European standardisation

Following a request for input by the European Commission at a stakeholder conference in April 2009, BusinessEurope has adopted a position paper on the future of European standardisation. The paper aims to contribute to the work of EXPRESS, the Expert Panel for the Review of the European Standardisation System, set up by the Commission. EXPRESS is due to deliver a report by the end of

2009 containing recommendations in view of forthcoming policymaking and potential legislative proposals in this field, currently foreseen to be presented by the Commission in 2010.

- Source: BusinessEurope | June 4, 2009
- To review the position paper, please consult the BusinessEurope website:  
<http://212.3.246.117/docs/1/FNFHBLBAJHCALPAAFHKLBCPGPDBG9DWYAK9LTE4Q/UNICE/docs/DLS/2009-01234-E.pdf>.

## Centre-right wins European elections

The European elections, held simultaneously in 27 countries for the first time in history, ended in a clear victory for the centre-right EPP-ED group and a defeat for the Party of European Socialists (PES), results showed. The EPP-ED group is credited with between 263 and 273 members of the European Parliament against 155-165 MEPs for the PES, the European Parliament website indicated. In the outgoing 785-member European Parliament, EPP-ED had 284 MEPs to the PES's 215.

- Source: European Parliament | June 7, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Parliament website: <http://www.elections2009-results.eu>.
- Please also consult the European Commission website to review the statement of President Barroso on the outcome of the European Parliament elections:  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/09/263&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

## European Commission launches consultation on possible end-date for Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) migration

The European Commission has launched a consultation on whether and how deadlines should be set for the migration of existing payment products - i.e. credit transfers and direct debits - to the new Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) products. Feedback from all stakeholders will help the Commission to identify whether there is a need for action in this respect and at which level. Interested parties are invited to send their comments to the Commission by August 3, 2009.

- Source: European Commission | June 8, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website:  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/884&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

## European Commission outlines its vision for the area of freedom, security and justice in the next five years



On June 10, 2009 the European Commission adopted a Communication analysing the EU's work on justice and internal affairs in recent years and setting out its priorities for the future. Ordinary citizens should be at the heart of the future Stockholm Programme, to be debated by the European Parliament and adopted by the European Council before the end of 2009, which will provide a framework for EU action on the questions of citizenship, justice, security, asylum and immigration for the next five years.

- Source: European Commission | June 10, 2009
- To review the Commission Communication, please consult the European Commission website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/doc\\_centre/doc/com\\_2009\\_263\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/doc/com_2009_263_en.pdf).
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website:
  - SEC (2009) 765: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/doc\\_centre/doc/sec\\_2009\\_765\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/doc/sec_2009_765_en.pdf)
  - SEC (2009) 766: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/doc\\_centre/doc/sec\\_2009\\_766\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/doc/sec_2009_766_en.pdf)
  - SEC (2009) 767: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/doc\\_centre/doc/sec\\_2009\\_767\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/doc/sec_2009_767_en.pdf)

## Challenges for equality between women and men in a time of change

The European Commission addressed the issue of gender equality in a time of economic crisis during a conference in Brussels on June 15-16, 2009. The two-day conference brought together representations from the European Institutions, notably Vice-President Wallström and Commissioner Spidla; representatives from national governments and equality bodies, European social partners and civil society to identify future priorities in the field of gender equality.

- Source: European Commission | June 16, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=418&langId=en&eventsId=191&furtherEvents=yes>.

## Social Dialogue contributes to achieving the goals of the Lisbon strategy

On June 15, 2009, participating in a conference organised by Europe et Société in Paris, France, on Social Dialogue and the Lisbon strategy, BusinessEurope Social Affairs Advisor Maxime Cerutti explained how the European social partners have contributed through various initiatives to improving the effectiveness of Europe's labour markets. The 2007 joint labour market analysis was key to arrive at a common understanding between employers and trade unions about the importance of flexicurity. The latter is now widely recognised as a crucial approach to achieve the Lisbon employment objectives. As part of their work programme 2009-2010, European social partners have agreed to contribute to the definition of the post-2010 Lisbon agenda.

- Source: BusinessEurope | June 16, 2009
- For further information, please consult the BusinessEurope website:  
<http://212.3.246.117/docs/1/HJHNNPEDKMCMEGHBFLABPDBG9DW6CG9LTE4Q/UNICE/docs/DLS/2009-01389-E.pdf>.

## Parental leave: the European social partners sign the revised version of the Framework Agreement

The new Framework Agreement concluded by the social partners increases the duration of parental leave from three to four months per parent and applies to all employees regardless of their type of contract. It is the result of six months' negotiations between the social partners and reflects the changes that have occurred in society and on the labour market since the first Framework Agreement on parental leave was signed in 1995. Vladimír Špidla, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities attended the official signing on June 18, 2009.

- Source: European Commission | June 18, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website:  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/948&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

## Eurozone inflation

The annual inflation rate in the Eurozone fell to 0.0% in May 2009, according to EU statistics. Inflation in the EU as a whole was 0.7%. Both figures were down 0.6 percentage points compared with April 2009. Ireland (on -1.7%) and Portugal (-1.2%) had the lowest rates, while the highest were recorded in Romania (5.9%), Lithuania (4.9%) and Latvia (4.4%).

- Source: European Voice and Eurostat | June 18, 2009
- For further information, please consult the Eurostat website: [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_PUBLIC/2-16062009-BP/EN/2-16062009-BP-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/2-16062009-BP/EN/2-16062009-BP-EN.PDF).

## Barroso gets EU leaders' blessing for second term



José Manuel Barroso won unanimous backing from EU Heads of State and government on June 18, 2009 for a second five-year mandate at the head of the European Commission. He now needs to convince the European Parliament in a vote expected in mid-July 2009.

- Source: European Commission | June 18, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/president/pdf/speech\\_20090618\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/pdf/speech_20090618_en.pdf) and  
[http://www.euractiv.com/29/images/BarrosoJuneECCouncil\\_tcm29-183310.pdf](http://www.euractiv.com/29/images/BarrosoJuneECCouncil_tcm29-183310.pdf).

## The EU Committee of the Regions scrutinises progress of EU enlargement countries, stresses role of local and regional authorities in accession process

Europe's elected regional and local representatives warned against closing the EU's doors to aspiring countries, while firmly requesting further reforms on the ground. By adopting two opinions on the bloc's enlargement strategy, the members of the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR), meeting in their bimonthly plenary session on June 17-18, 2009, also sent a strong decentralisation message to EU candidate countries and hopefuls: as the bulk of EU legislation is implemented by local and regional authorities, they are of crucial importance for making a country 'EU-ready'. The essential role of sub-national actors in the accession process has to be recognised, and their capacities strengthened accordingly.

- ➔ Source: EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) | June 18, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the CoR website: <http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/PressTemplate.aspx?view=detail&id=5f85b30d-0aa5-4371-8c8f-acb198ed5889>.

## Completing administrative procedures electronically: European Commission to boost cross-border services by means of up-to-date technology

The European Commission will co-finance a project driven by Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, and Poland helping public administrations to improve online services for the service sector. By the end of 2009, each EU Member State will have established points of single contact where companies can complete administrative procedures electronically. While it will allow for example a Belgian service provider to complete all the necessary formalities to open a café in the Netherlands online, the pilot project will work on further enhancing the quality of electronic procedures. More than € 14 million will be invested over three years into the pilot project, half of which will come from the EU's Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | June 19, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/967&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

## Data protection compliance in the EU administration: EDPS reports overall good progress

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) has issued his second general report measuring progress made in the implementation of data protection rules and principles by Community institutions and bodies, as laid down in the Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 45/2001). The report shows that Community institutions have overall made good progress in meeting their data protection requirements. A lower level of compliance is observed in Community agencies, but the EDPS will be monitoring this closely and will encourage further compliance. Peter Hustinx, EDPS, says: "I am pleased to see that compliance with data protection rules is developing in Community institutions and agencies. Further progress is however needed to fully translate those legal obligations in concrete technical and organisational arrangements that enable privacy safeguards to be ensured. In my role as supervisor, I will continue to encourage compliance in the EU administration by measuring progress, including more systematic verifications on the spot, and setting targets where needed."

- ➔ Source: European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) | June 23, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EDPS website: <http://www.edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/edps/lang/en/pid/78>.

## Poland's Euro adoption faces delay



Poland will present an updated adoption timetable for adopting the European single currency by early August, a deputy Finance Minister said on June 24, 2009 amid growing expectations that the 2012 target date for Euro entry will be pushed back. The centre-right government has conceded that 2012 is unrealistic, given the scale of an economic slowdown that has eroded state revenues and driven up the budget deficit, though it remains publicly committed to that entry date.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | June 24, 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/publications/publication15445\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/publication15445_en.pdf).

## Eurozone confidence up on recovery hopes

Eurozone economic sentiment strengthened for the third month running in June 2009, sending European stocks up as hopes grew that the worst economic crisis in decades may be easing, albeit slightly. The European Commission predicted the worst could be over for the 16-country currency area, with some other surveys showing improvements, but its top economic affairs official cautioned that growth would be fragile and unemployment high. A monthly survey by the Commission showed economic sentiment in the Eurozone rose more than expected to 73.3 points in June 2009 from 70.2 in May 2009. In a separate quarterly report, the Commission said the recession had probably passed its lowest point though growing unemployment posed a threat to recovery, which was likely to come only in 2010.

- Source: European Commission | June 30, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website:  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1048&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.
- To review the quarterly report, please consult the European Commission website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/publications/publication15487\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/publication15487_en.pdf).

## Commission calls on Member States to implement new guidelines for improving Single Market

A set of practical measures aimed at improving the functioning of the Single Market at national, regional and local levels has been put forward by the European Commission, so that citizens and businesses can make full use of their Single Market rights. Member States are being asked to implement a number of new guidelines in critical areas such as making practical information on opportunities in other EU countries easily available, improving cooperation between national authorities and strengthening the transposition, application and enforcement of Single Market rules on the ground. The progress in introducing the measures will be jointly monitored by the Commission and national administrations, and after four years, the Commission will report on the overall progress achieved. The Commission has issued these measures in the form of a non-binding 'Recommendation'.

- Source: European Commission | June 30, 2009
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/strategy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/strategy/index_en.htm).

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

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