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BSIA (UK CoESS member) section highlights the benefits of access control technology



Following the British Security Industry Association's (BSIA, active member of CoESS) recent research into crime in the recession, the Association's Access Control Section is highlighting the benefits that users can gain from access control technology. The BSIA's research revealed that security remains a key investment for UK plc despite the difficult economic climate with 92% of respondents retaining the same level of investment. In a summary report of the research findings, access control was featured as a popular security measure among the respondents. 83% of respondents have not seen an increase in crime or fear an increase, however, 14% of respondents are looking to invest in access control as a security measure in the near future and 56% of respondents have an access control system in place at present to provide security.

- ➔ Source: British Security Industry Association (BSIA) | December 2009
- ➔ For further information, please consult the BSIA website: <http://www.bsia.co.uk/home/O0K078287891?backlinktype=home>.

BSIA (UK CoESS member): Have your say on the in-house debate



Last May 2009 it was announced that licensing in the UK would not be extended to include in-house security officers. This announcement was based on the principle that an industry consultation “found insufficient substantiated evidence of risk or threat to the public to support in-house licensing”. It has been noted that the in-house question will not be revisited until 2012. However, the BSIA, active member of CoESS, is currently conducting a survey among UK companies into this issue. Companies are asked to put in place a monthly review procedure so that any issues that come to light on an ongoing basis are recorded and input into the BSIA.

- Source: British Security Industry Association (BSIA) | January 2010
- To review the survey, please consult the BSIA website:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=OBGFvrW4My0a8oUF5I0AOJoffPHiuwa9YMHWPLOXmwig%3d&>.

Renewed VPB (Dutch CoESS member) website



VPB, the Dutch private security federation, active member of CoESS, has introduced important updates and modifications on its website. The information regarding the VPB’s quality marks in particular has been considerably reworked to facilitate access and improve searchability.

- Source: VPB Checklist | January 2010
- To review the website section on the VPB’s quality marks, please consult the VPB website (Dutch only):
<http://www.vpb.nl/Keurmerk.html>.

International Discussion Forum



Following the CoESS Academic Session and General Assemblies of September 30-October 1, 2009, the security organisations of Asia, Australia, Brazil, Russia, South-Africa and the United States discussed and jointly agreed to build and promote closer cooperation between them through the creation of an **International Discussion Forum** aimed at exchanging information and best practice. To facilitate this communication flow, it was decided to assign a focus theme to each month to identify and exchange information in a structured manner. For the coming 6 months, the following themes will be addressed: training, quality, legislation, licensing, image building (including PR and communication) and external relations (with governments, social partners, national and international federations and organisations). The focus themes are applicable to all segments of the security industry ranging from guarding, aviation security, maritime security, critical infrastructure protection, transport security and electronic surveillance to supply chain security.

- To review the interim results of the first questionnaire that was sent out in December 2009 and designed to gather global information on the topic of ‘training’, please consult the CoESS website: http://www.coess.eu/pdf/December_2009-Focus_theme_Training-consolidated_responses.pdf.

News from the CoESS Working Committees

CoESS Working Committee Electronic Surveillance - January 12, 2010 (Brussels)

On January 12, 2010 the CoESS Working Committee Electronic Surveillance organised a meeting in Brussels. The agenda included the following discussion topics: positioning of an ARC in the European private security landscape (in light of the EU Directive on Services), follow-up of the CENELEC Workgroup 14 on ARC specifications and installation standards for CCTV in Europe.

- The minutes of the CoESS Working Committee Electronic Surveillance of January 12, 2010 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 experience any difficulties logging in, please contact the CoESS General Secretariat.

CoESS Working Committee Guarding - January 13, 2010 (Brussels)

On January 13, 2010 the CoESS Working Committee Guarding met in Brussels, mainly to discuss a methodology for future questionnaires/surveys requiring statistical input. The agenda also included the following items: debrief on the CoESS/ALMEGA Second European Summit on Private Security (December 8, 2009 - Stockholm), update on the present situation in EU and CEN projects (EU Directive on Services, CEN/PC 384 and CEN/TC 379), draft proposal regarding a possible future vertical EU harmonisation instrument, definition of private security and CoESS/UNI europa's Mobility Project.

- ➔ The minutes of the CoESS Working Committee Guarding of January 13, 2010 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 experience any difficulties logging in, please contact the CoESS General Secretariat.

Third Party Violence - joint employers'/trade unions' meeting - January 13, 2010 (Brussels)

On January 13, 2010 CoESS actively participated in the joint employers'/trade unions' meeting on Third Party Violence following the October 22, 2009 conference. Delegates adopted the commitment on Third Party Violence at Work as drafted by HOSPEEM, CEMR, EPSU, CoESS, EuroCommerce and UNI europa and discussed next steps. The following joint meeting will be organised beginning of March 2010.

CoESS Working Committee Critical Infrastructure - January 20, 2010 (London)

On January 20, 2010 the Working Committee Critical Infrastructure convened in London to discuss the following agenda item: draft White Paper on Critical Infrastructure Protection: 'Protecting critical infrastructure in the European Union - the public-private challenge'.

- ➔ The minutes of the CoESS Working Committee Critical Infrastructure of January 20, 2010 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 experience any difficulties logging in, please contact the CoESS General Secretariat.

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

EU pushes for rules on body scanners



In response to an attempt to blow up a US plane on Christmas Day, the European Commission hosted talks in Brussels on January 7, 2010 with aviation security experts on body scanners. The Commission is "convinced that body scanners can play a very useful role as a complementary means of screening". According to the EU Executive, Member States are free to use body scanners, provided that the security checks do not contradict national or EU legislation. But a previous draft EU Regulation on body scanners issued in 2008 was heavily criticised by the European Parliament and withdrawn over privacy and health concerns. The introduction of full body scanners raises questions about privacy, cultural sensitivity and personal freedom. Privacy campaigners claim the images created by the machines are so graphic they amount to "virtual strip-searching" and have called for safeguards to protect the privacy of passengers.

- ➔ Source: EurActiv and Financial Times | January 5-6, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/security/eu-pushes-rules-body-scanners/article-188578#> and the Financial Times website: http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bbf7e098-f999-11de-8085-00144feab49a.html?nclick_check=1.

Airports welcome constructive security discussion with government

Aviation security must “adapt progressively” to meet threats, said British Airport Operators Association (AOA) Chairman Ed Anderson. Airports call for better use of intelligence, and exploring the wider deployment of explosive detection devices, the use of behavioural assessment of passengers and body scanners. Anderson stated: “Representatives of UK airport operators took part in a constructive discussion with Lord Adonis, and continue to work closely with Department for Transport officials. We believe that an effective aviation security regime will adapt progressively and will combine multiple elements. Technology such as explosive detection devices and body scanners will play an important part and there are further opportunities to make better use of intelligence, more coordination between relevant agencies and behavioural assessment of passengers.”

- Source: Airport Operators Association (AOA) | January 6, 2010
- For further information, please consult the AOA website: <http://www.aoa.org.uk/home/index.asp>.

European Commission adopts report on the efficiency of the banned airlines list

Three years after the adoption of the EU rules governing the establishment and update of the list of airlines banned from European airspace, the European Commission adopted on January 11, 2010 a report on their application. The report will be presented to the European Parliament and to the Council. It gathers the experience of twelve updates of the list of airlines banned in the European Union and draws some lessons for the future. These lessons will guide policy decisions in the area of air safety at European and international level in 2010. Three years of application have shown the effectiveness of this tool to keep safe Europeans travelling by air. Without providing a full guarantee, it has also functioned as a strong incentive to airlines and civil aviation authorities to continuously improve safety.

- Source: European Commission | January 11, 2010
- To review the report, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air/safety/doc/com_2009_710_en.pdf and http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air/safety/doc/sec_2009_1735.pdf.

EU and US agree to increase airport security



On January 21, 2010 EU and US Interior Ministers agreed to step up airport screening of passengers, increase onboard security and to improve data sharing after a failed attack in December 2009 on a US-bound flight departing from Amsterdam. Recognising their “shared responsibility” for preventing terrorist attacks on civil flights, Ministers pledged to come up by April 2010 with concrete proposals on enhancing their security both on the ground and in the air. US Home Affairs Chief Janet Napolitano said cooperation needed to be strengthened in the area of data collection, analysis and sharing, improvement of aviation standards and deployment of better screening technology. The EU Commission has been mandated to speed up its evaluation of a Europe-wide rollout of bodyscanners, an issue which is still controversial for several Member States and lawmakers concerned with privacy rights. Justice Commissioner Jacques Barrot said a report will be soon published on the effectiveness of this technology, as well as its potential impact on health and its compatibility with individual rights.

- Source: EUobserver | January 22, 2010
- For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/29319/?rk=1>.

News from the European Union

Spain takes over rotating EU Presidency for six months



Spain assumed the rotating Presidency of the European Union at the start of the new year, promising to make the Lisbon Treaty its top priority. The Treaty took effect in December 2009, ushering in a host of changes to help the EU take decisions efficiently and play a prominent role in international affairs. Over the next half year, Spain will seek to strengthen the EU's role as a global player, working closely with new EU President Herman Van Rompuy, to project European unity and help the bloc speak with one voice. Spain will also be involved in setting up the EU Foreign Ministry and Diplomatic Corps headed by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton. The Treaty requires the EU Presidency to work closely with the next two countries to hold the office - in Spain's case, Belgium and Hungary. The practical outcome of this 'trio of Presidencies' is a joint 18-month programme. Adopting a new European strategy for growth and jobs and improving supervision of the international financial system will be priorities. Spain plans to pay special attention to gender equality. It also hopes to make progress on energy security, climate change and immigration.

- Source: Spanish EU Presidency | January 4, 2010
- For further information, please consult the Spanish EU Presidency website: <http://www.eu2010.es/>.

Women and Men in Decision-Making

As part of its commitment to promoting gender equality in decision-making, the European Commission established a database monitoring the numbers of men and women in key decision-making positions in order to provide reliable statistics that can be used to monitor the current situation and trends through time. The database covers positions of power and influence in politics, public administration, the judiciary, and various other key areas of the economy. Figures are available for decision-makers at European, national and regional level (politics only) and currently cover 34 countries - the 27 EU Member States, the remaining EEA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), the three candidate countries (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey) and one of the potential candidate countries (Serbia).

- Source: European Commission | January 7, 2010
- To review the 2009 annual update of the Women and Men in Decision-Making database, please consult the European Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=764&langId=en>.

Euro coin counterfeiting in 2009

In 2009, the number of counterfeit Euro coins removed from circulation was 172,100, down from 195,900 the year before. This second consecutive decrease confirms the action to render Euro coins safer for users. Although encouraging, there is no room for complacency and efforts to remove counterfeits from circulation should be maintained and intensified. A Commission proposal presented in 2009 and currently being discussed in Parliament and Council aims to further improve the fight against Euro coin counterfeiting. The number of counterfeit Euro coins removed from circulation in 2009 decreased by 12% compared with the year before. The evolution per denomination, however, is contrasted. Where the number of 2-Euro counterfeits decreased by almost 18%, the numbers for 50-cent and 1-Euro continued to increase, by 9% and 8%, respectively. The 2-Euro denomination remains by far the most counterfeited Euro coin, representing almost 3 out of every 4 counterfeit Euro coins. The Commission considers that counterfeit Euro coins are not, however, a significant cause of concern for the public. Indeed, the overall number is very small by comparison with the total number of around 15 billion genuine Euro coins put into circulation of the three highest denominations, with a resulting ratio of 1 counterfeit for every 89 000 genuine coins. The number of detected counterfeits is also lower than the sum of counterfeit coins in the Euro area countries before the introduction of the Euro. These counterfeit coins, while increasingly sophisticated, should generally be rejected by properly adjusted vending and other coin-operated machines.

- Source: European Commission | January 11, 2010
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/2&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

December 2009: Euro area annual inflation up to 0%

Euro area annual inflation was 0.9% in December 2009, up from 0.5% in November 2009. A year earlier, the rate was 1.6%. Monthly inflation was 0.3% in December 2009. The annual average rate of inflation in 2009 was 0.3%, down from 3.3% in 2008. EU annual inflation was 1.4% in December 2009, up from 1.0% in November 2009. A year earlier, the rate was 2.2%. Monthly inflation was 0.2% in December 2009. The annual average rate of inflation in 2009 was 1.0%, down from 3.7% in 2008.

- Source: Eurostat | January 15, 2010
- For further information, please consult the Eurostat website: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/2-15012010-AP/EN/2-15012010-AP-EN.PDF.

New European Commission set to start work on February 10, 2010

The new European Commission is on course to take up office on February 10, 2010 after a delay caused by MEPs' refusal to approve the appointment of Rumiana Jeleva, Bulgaria's nominee for European Commissioner. Bulgaria's replacement nominee, Kristalina Georgieva, a Vice-President of the World Bank, will have a hearing before MEPs on February 3, 2010. The European Parliament will then vote on José Manuel Barroso's second team on February 9, 2010. If the vote in Strasbourg is positive, as is now expected, the new Commission will be sworn into office at the European Court of Justice on February 10, 2010.

- Source: European Voice | January 21, 2010
- For further information, please consult the European Voice website: <http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/new-commission-set-to-start-work-on-10-february/66927.aspx>.

Spain champions Turkish EU membership



The Spanish EU Presidency strongly advocated Turkey's entry into the European Union, but most Europeans would say 'no' if asked in a referendum. "Turkey is part of the European family of nations. It's better to have it inside the EU than to leave it standing before the door," Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos said in an interview with German paper Die Welt on January 23, 2010. "Turkish diplomacy is very well connected in the Middle East and Central Asia where it is taking on an important mediating role. Turkey is also an important partner in the dialogue of civilisations between East and West," he said. "This is our challenge in dealing with the Islamic world: We must show that interfaces exist between Muslim societies and between universal values, which are represented by the EU, that co-existence and consensus are possible." Spain has promised to try and open four more negotiating chapters in Turkish-EU accession talks during its six-month EU Chairmanship.

- Source: Die Welt | January 23, 2010
- To read the interview in full, please consult the Die Welt website: <http://www.welt.de/die-welt/politik/article5960004/Die-Tuerkei-gehoert-zu-Europa.html>.

2012 'realistic deadline' for Croatia's EU entry

In Croatia, there is a "significant gap" between the political elite, which is "resolutely turned towards EU integration", and public opinion, which is "still lukewarm on the issue", according to Jacques Rupnik, a researcher at Sciences Po in Paris. The Balkan specialist spoke to EurActiv France in an interview. Croatia's new President Ivo Josipovic "can promote the opening of the population's minds" to EU accession, he said, adding that "his words and his status" will give him the authority to do so. Croatia is poised to become the first country to join the EU since the accession of Romania and Bulgaria in 2007. The country is expected to complete its accession negotiations in 2010 and join in 2012.

- Source: EurActiv | January 25, 2010
- To read the interview in full, please consult the EurActiv website (French): <http://www.euractiv.fr/elargissement-000159/interview/president-croate-peut-favoriser-ouverture-population-a-ue-002390>.

MEPs to get security passes after access row

MEPs are to be given security passes to enter the Council of Ministers' buildings, after winning a dispute in which the Parliament refused to allow officials from national administrations to enter its buildings. The Parliament's political groups are now discussing how to divide up between them an estimated 40-50 badges which were the price exacted for lifting restrictions on entering the Parliament.

- Source: European Voice | January 28, 2010
- For further information, please consult the European Voice website: <http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/meps-to-get-security-passes-after-access-row/66985.aspx>.

EU deal gives Parliament extended powers

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso agreed to new terms in the European Parliament's relations with the EU Executive, giving the assembly more power to scrutinise laws and raise its profile vis-à-vis Member States. The new 'Framework Agreement', agreed on January 27, 2010, will govern relations between the Parliament and the Commission for the 2010-2015 period. It will be submitted to a vote on February 9, 2010, just ahead of a poll on the incoming Barroso II team.

- Source: EurActiv | January 29, 2010
- For further information, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu/eu-deal-gives-parliament-extended-powers>.

EU Services Directive causes further EU headaches

Member States are struggling to bring the EU Services Directive into national law while carefully watching other countries' development. The European Commission has long viewed the Services Directive as a crucial step in completing the EU's single market, but Member States' failure to put it in place before the recently expired December 2009 deadline led to much hand-wringing and debate in Brussels. The argument centres on how the Commission will respond should infringement procedures be launched to force Member States to speed up their efforts. The question floating around is whether a "softly-softly" approach would be more appropriate given the complexities of this troublesome dossier. During his hearing before the European Parliament, French Commissioner-Designate for the Internal Market, Michel Barnier, said he favoured negotiations rather than binding legal pressures. He said he planned to visit each of the 27 Member States to discuss with governments and economic and social representatives the slow implementation of the directive.

- Source: EurActiv | January 29, 2010
- For further information, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/Services-Directive-EU-headaches>.

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

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