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News from the Member Federations | General CoESS news

VPB (Dutch CoESS member) to develop Quality Mark for Event Security



VPB, the Dutch private security association, active member of CoESS, will develop before summer this year its Quality Mark for Event Security. The Quality Mark is planned to be operational as of January 1, 2011.

- ➔ Source: VPB Checklist | May 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the VPB website (Dutch): www.vpb.nl.

BSIA (UK CoESS member) publishes access control guide to the healthcare sector



The British Security Industry Association (BSIA), active member of CoESS, has published a new guide to aid the healthcare sector in the use of access control systems. The guide is aimed at hospitals and residential care homes and explains how access control technology can better protect these sites, which are increasingly being targeted by criminals. The BSIA guide provides information on how access control can reduce risks that the healthcare sector faces, the added benefits the systems can bring, case studies and any legislation that should be considered. The guide to the healthcare sector forms part of a series of publications, which are tailored to the installation of systems within different environments including manufacturing sites, offices and education premises. These guides ensure end users are getting accurate information in relation to the particular application they are looking for.

- ➔ Source: British Security Industry Association (BSIA) | May 2010
- ➔ To download the guide to access control for the healthcare sector, please consult the BSIA website:
http://www.bsia.co.uk/web_images/securitenews/ac_for_healthcare_final.pdf.

ESTA Business Conference, Exhibition and General Assembly - June 13-15, 2010 (Porto, Portugal)



From June 13-15, 2010 ESTA, the European Security Transport Association, corresponding member of CoESS, organised its Business Conference, Exhibition and General Assembly in Porto, Portugal. The working sessions saw three main themes debated: the cash cycle of the new decade, EU upcoming legislation impacting on the Cash-in-Transit industry and security issues. The Conference was a resounding success. All conference presentations will be downloadable from the ESTA event page.

- ➔ Further information and a copy of the presentations delivered can be found on the ESTA events website: <http://www.esta-cash.eu/en/events/porto-presentations.html>.
- ➔ The conference programme can be found here: <http://www.esta-cash.eu/en/events/porto-program-june-2010.html>.

Aproser (Spanish CoESS member) re-elects Board of Directors



The General Assembly of Aproser, the Spanish private security association, active member of CoESS, which took place on June 15, 2010 re-elected its Board of Directors for a period of 18 months. Carlos Bañuelos (Securitas) will hold the Presidency, Alejandro Corominas (Prosegur) will be Vice-President and Carlos Blanco (Eulen Seguridad) will be the Treasurer of the Association. Alfonso Tomás (Falcon Seguridad), Georges López (Loomis Spain), José Luis Novales (Segur Ibérica) and Juan Antonio Reyes (Vinsa Seguridad) will also be Members of the Board.

- ➔ Source: Aproser | June 15, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the Aproser website: www.aproser.es.

UK Security Industry Authority Annual Conference - June 15, 2010 (London, United Kingdom)

On June 15, 2010 the UK Security Industry Authority (SIA) held its Annual Conference at The Kings Fund, London, United Kingdom. Titled 'A Common Purpose - Raising Standards in the Private Security Industry', the event aimed to encourage further development and progress by the industry, including examples of business best practice and the latest news from the SIA. Hilde De Clerck, Secretary-General of CoESS, delivered a speech on 'An International View of Private Security'.

→ For further information, please consult the UK SIA website: <http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Pages/about-news.aspx?newsID=224>.

Forum Liaison Meeting - June 21, 2010 (Brussels)

On June 21, 2010 the European Commission organised its Forum Liaison Meeting. The following topics were discussed: recent developments in European Social Dialogue and Industrial Relations, revision of the Working Time Directive (overview of replies to the consultation of social partners, impact assessment and further planning), "A new strategy for the single market at the service of Europe's economy and society" and Europe 2020 Strategy (guidelines and flagship initiatives).

European Business Services Round Table (EBSRT) - June 30, 2010 (Brussels)

An extraordinary meeting of the European Business Services Round Table (EBSRT) was organised on June 30, 2010 in Brussels. Discussion topics included the EU Directive on Services: state of play in implementation, issues/lessons arising from it, next steps, eco-innovation in services, CEPS and business services (a proposal for informal cooperation).

CoESS' Secretary-General interviewed in the Aproser Security Magazine



The June 2010 edition of Aproser's Security Magazine contains an interview with the Secretary-General of CoESS, Hilde De Clerck. De Clerck analyses the future challenges of private security in Europe, common issues dealt with at European level and national issues, the public procurement processes at national level, the consequences of the economic crisis, training issues and several additional questions.

→ Source: Aproser | June 2010 edition of Aproser's Security Magazine
→ To access the June 2010 edition of Aproser's Security Magazine, please consult the Aproser website (Spanish): <http://www.aproser.org/pdf/prensa/BoletinAproser23.pdf>.

Transport Security Expo and Conference - September 14-15, 2010 (London, United Kingdom)

On September 14-15, 2010 TranSec World Expo enters its 8th year with the name change to [Transport Security Expo and Conference](#). Transport Security is the only event globally to bring together the full spectrum of key stakeholders and industry leaders from the areas of aviation, maritime and the supply chain under one roof, creating three events in one. The event features an exhibition, conferences, workshops and networking receptions to bring together all aspects of the industries it serves to review the latest information on current and future threats, debate best practice, gauge industry opinion and review the latest technologies. Transport Security moves to London for 2010 and will take place in the world-renowned Olympia Conference and Exhibition Centre. Discounted registration fees are available to all CoESS and ASSA-I members who wish to attend the Transport Security Expo and Conference. For further information, please contact either the CoESS General Secretariat (Ms. Leen Van Sand: lvs@i-b-s.be) or the ASSA-I General Secretariat (Ms. Roxanne Vande Zande: rvz@i-b-s.be). Please click [here](#) to download the official press release for the conference. The full programme for the aviation security conference can be found [here](#). The full programme for the maritime security conference can be found [here](#). Please click [here](#) to download the timetable for the different workshops that are being organised.



News from the CoESS Working Committees

CoESS Working Committee Cash-in-Transit (CIT)/Transport of Valuables - June 15, 2010 (Porto, Portugal)

On June 15, 2010, in the framework of ESTA's Business Conference, Exhibition and General Assembly in Porto, Portugal, the Working Committee Cash-in-Transit members met to discuss the following topics: European Commission White Paper on Professional Cross-Border Transportation of Euro Cash by Road between Member States in the Euro Area and cash issues (cash in circulation, legal tender status and war on cash).

- The minutes of the CoESS Working Committee CIT of June 15, 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 this document. In case you experience any difficulties logging in, please contact the CoESS General Secretariat.

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

Greater flexibility required to adjust to unfavourable economic conditions

The EUROCONTROL Performance Review Commission (PRC) has issued its Performance Review Report for the year 2009, which was marked by an unprecedented traffic downturn. It presents an assessment of the performance of European Air Navigation Services (ANS) under the Key Performance Areas of Safety, Punctuality & Predictability, Capacity & Delays, Flight Efficiency, Environmental impact, and Cost-Effectiveness.

- Source: EUROCONTROL | June 9, 2010
- To view the full report, please consult the EUROCONTROL website: http://www.eurocontrol.int/prc/public/subsite_homepage/homepage.html.

Call for EU rules on bodyscanners



The European Commission is to make another push for EU-wide rules on the use of bodyscanners in airports. In a report published on June 15, 2010, Siim Kallas, the European Commissioner for Transport, stated that health risks and privacy concerns are not insurmountable obstacles to the use of the scanners, which take a nude picture of passengers. The Netherlands and the UK introduced bodyscanners in airports this year. The Commission believes that an EU-wide approach is needed to stop privacy standards developing in an ad-hoc way, but it will have to convince national governments and the European Parliament. MEPs and governments are likely to disagree over who pays for the scanners, which can cast up to € 150,000 each. Last month, MEPs called for governments, rather than airports, to bear the cost of extra security measures.

- Source: European Voice | June 10, 2010

Open letter to EU Transport Ministers EU - air accident investigations must promote safety

On June 10, 2010 air transport organisations sent an open letter to EU Transport Ministers stating that they are fully committed to the highest levels of aviation safety in Europe and beyond and that one of the key tools for improving safety is aviation safety investigations, allowing the industry to learn from past accidents and prevent future ones. The current legislative process on a new EU Accident Investigation Regulation is a unique opportunity to strengthen this tool, building independent accident investigations into a cornerstone of Europe's aviation safety architecture. The signatory organisations called upon EU Transport Ministers to recognise the European Parliament's safety-oriented approach and urged the Council to work closely with the Parliament and the European Commission to establish a robust legal framework ensuring that the safety and judicial investigations work independently from each other, and that safety data is adequately protected.

- Source: Air Transport News | June 10, 2010

- ➔ For further information about the EU Accident Investigation Regulation, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air/safety/accident_investigation_en.htm.
- ➔ To read the full the open letter, please consult the Air Transport News website: <http://www.airtransportnews.aero/article.pl?mcateg=&id=24047>.

European Commission Communication on the use of security scanners at European airports

The European Commission has issued on June 15, 2010 a communication assessing the use of security scanners at EU airports, at the request of the European Parliament and Member States. In the wake of the terrorist attempt to use explosives on the Amsterdam-Detroit flight on December 25, 2009, security scanners are being increasingly used and are continuing to be trialled in several EU Member States including the UK, The Netherlands, France and Italy. Security scanners as such currently fall outside the scope of the EU regulations on aviation security - there is a patchwork of regulation in different Member States. The report published on June 15, 2010 highlights that this screening method offers a real possibility to reinforce passenger security. The Commission is in favour of an EU approach to ensure that, where Member States decide to use security scanners, their deployment and operation is based on common standards, requiring basic detection performance as well as ensuring a harmonised level of compliance with European fundamental rights and health provisions. It will seek the views of the European Parliament and of the Council in the light of the factual information gathered in the report.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | June 15, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air/security/security_en.htm.
- ➔ To review the Commission Communication, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air/security/doc/com2010_311_4_security_scanners.pdf.

Siim Kallas welcomes the signature of the Second Stage EU-US “Open Skies” agreement

Vice-President Kallas has on June 24, 2010 welcomed the adoption of the ‘Second Stage’ Open Skies aviation agreement with the United States. In Luxembourg, Vice-President Kallas, Spanish Minister for Transport, José Blanco, and the US Ambassador to Luxembourg, Cynthia Stroum, together with the Member States’ Transport Ministers, signed the agreement. The full implementation of the first and second stage agreements is expected to give the economy a €12 billion boost as well as create up to 80,000 new jobs.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | June 24, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/818&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

European Commission launches campaign to inform passengers about their rights

Passengers will enjoy easier access to information about their rights when travelling by rail or air thanks to a Europe-wide publicity campaign in 23 languages launched by the European Commission on June 29, 2010. Although the Commission has in recent years introduced legislation to ensure air and rail passengers benefit from the same standards of treatment throughout the European Union, not all passengers are yet aware of what they are entitled to. To remedy this, posters reminding people of their rights will be displayed in airports and train stations in all Member States in time for the beginning of the holiday season. Travellers will also be able to consult free leaflets and a specially designed website in all of the European Union’s official languages.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | June 29, 2010
- ➔ The dedicated website of the European Commission can be accessed here: <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/passenger-rights/index.html>.
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/281&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

News from the European Union

EU response to the consequences of the volcanic ash cloud for air transport

After listening to a report by the European Commission, the Council had an exchange of views on the initiatives taken in response to the impact of the air traffic disruptions following the eruption of an Icelandic volcano in mid-April 2010. Ministers invited the Commission to continue its efforts along the lines described in its report. Some of them urged the Commission to speed up work, in particular with a view to rapidly establishing common procedures and standards for risk management. The Commission was also asked by some Member States to look into further ways how to improve the financial situation of the air industry, and to strike a fair balance between passenger rights, which must be maintained, and the financial burden on airlines when reviewing the EU legislation in this field. The Presidency noted that there is political resolve in all European institutions to deal with the consequences of the ash cloud disruptions in a coordinated way.

- ➔ Source: Council of the European Union | June 24, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the Council of the European Union website:
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/trans/115487.pdf.

Commission and US agree to cooperate on civil aviation research and development

The European Commission and the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have officially concluded negotiations for the establishment of a Memorandum of Cooperation in civil aviation research and development. The two delegations, led by Hank Krakowski, FAA Chief Operating Officer, and Daniel Calleja, European Commission's Director of Air Transport, met in Madrid on June 18, 2010, hosted by the EU Spanish Presidency, in the presence of Spain's Transport Minister, José Blanco. The negotiating parties initialled the Memorandum and a first technical Annex promoting interoperability between their respective air traffic management (ATM) modernisation programmes: SESAR and NextGen.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | June 18, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/761&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

European Commission proposal to adopt Article 10 of the United Nations Firearms Protocol

The European Commission on May 31, 2010 took a step closer towards the ratification of the UN Firearms Protocol (UNFP), by proposing to adopt Article 10 of the UNFP. The proposal addresses export authorisation and import and transit measures for firearms for civilian use.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | May 31, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/225&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

New training for UK door supervisors now in place



The new licence-linked qualifications for door supervisors are being introduced by training providers across the UK as of June 1, 2010. The qualifications bring the training up-to-date and introduce a modular structure. Significant additions have been made to the training for door supervisors to reflect up-to-date working practices. This includes practical assessment of physical intervention skills so that the door supervisor is aware of non-pain techniques that can be used in escorting or disengaging from customers where this becomes necessary. Awareness of terrorist threats, awareness of first aid, and specific considerations when dealing with 14 to 18-year-olds are also included. The new structure, with core plus specialist modules, means less overlap and duplication in content across the sectors. This makes it easier to get qualified to obtain more than one licence, as just the relevant and required training needs to be taken for each additional qualification.

- ➔ Source: UK Security Industry Authority (SIA) | June 1, 2010

- ➔ For further information, please consult the UK SIA website: <http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Pages/about-news.aspx?newsid=223>.

BusinessEurope calls for stronger public-private cooperation for better public services

Talking about the future of public services at the CEEP Congress held on June 1, 2010 in Madrid, BusinessEurope Director-General, Philippe de Buck, called for stronger cooperation between the public and private sectors in the delivery of better public services. Cost-effective and more efficient public services can contribute to getting Europe out of the crisis and are instrumental to overcome many of the challenges facing Europe today. Public authorities can take more advantage of the opportunity to involve the private sector via public-private partnerships to provide better value for money, more choice, high-quality standards and more consumer-oriented services.

- ➔ Source: BusinessEurope | June 2, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the BusinessEurope website: <http://www.businesseurope.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=568&DocID=26552>.

Commission creates two new Directorates General and reshuffles Senior Managers

On June 2, 2010 the European Commission took, upon a proposal from President Barroso and Vice-President Šefčovič, a number of decisions in order to implement its mobility policy for Senior Staff. This is the first mobility package since the start of this Commission. This package deals with the mobility of Senior Managers at Director General level who have reached five years or more in their present job, with the transfer of one Director-General having the same nationality as his current Commissioner, and the transfer and promotion of three Deputy Directors-General to Director General functions. With this package, the Commission, while reaffirming the principle that appointments are made on the basis of merit as a first criterion, ensures the promotion of two female Senior Officials to Director-General functions. This package is adopted at the same time as the creation of two new Directorates General, splitting the former Justice, Freedom and Security Directorate General. The two new Directorates General are DG Home Affairs and DG Justice, and their respective Directors-General are appointed in the context of the package.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | June 2, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/660&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

BusinessEurope's response to the European Commission on reviewing the Working Time Directive

On June 4, 2010 BusinessEurope published its response to the first-stage social partner consultation on reviewing the Working Time Directive. BusinessEurope shares the Commission's view that the world of work has changed considerably. The increased use of information and communication technology, the impact of globalisation, more jobs in knowledge-intensive sectors and a growing individualisation of work schedules require more flexibility in the organisation of working time. For companies it is crucial that the Directive ensures the possibility to opt-out from the maximum weekly working hours and that the legal basis remains that of health and safety at work. The key issue to be addressed is that of on-call time, due to the legal uncertainty and financial pressure on public and private sector companies following the ECJ rulings on Simap and Jaeger. The issue regarding the continued accrual of paid leave while on long-term sick leave, due to the ruling of the ECJ on Schultz-Hoff, also needs to be addressed. Moreover, a reference period for calculation of weekly working hours of 12 months would be beneficial. Since the adoption of the 1993 directive, social partners at national, sectoral and company level have devised suitable working time arrangements. It is important that existing arrangements are safeguarded and that room is given at national level for such arrangements to be possible in the future.

- ➔ Source: BusinessEurope | June 4, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the BusinessEurope website: <http://www.businesseurope.eu>.

Germany and Russia call for new EU security committee



Germany and Russia have called on the EU to create a new Foreign Minister-level security forum to handle issues such as Transnistria. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev made the proposal at a joint press conference following bilateral talks in Meseberg castle, 40km north of the German capital, on June 5, 2010. “There is now a committee of Ambassadors in Brussels that deals with security issues,” Ms. Merkel said, referring to EU Council’s Political and Security Committee (PSC). “This committee could be further developed, so that there is regular and ongoing contact not only at Ambassador level, but between the EU and Russia at the Foreign Minister-level.” She added that Berlin will put forward the idea at the next PSC meeting in Brussels. Mr. Medvedev backed the idea, saying: “We must make a special forum where we can exchange opinions on current issues of international security. We can also prepare advice on various legal issues of cooperation.”

- ➔ Source: EUobserver | June 7, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/30223/?rk=1>.

Commission encourages vocational education and training

The European Commission on June 9, 2010 presented its new vision for the future of vocational education and training. Vocational education and training is chosen by an average of around 50% of all students in upper secondary education. However, the sector needs to be modernised to make it a more attractive and high-quality option, so that it provides young people with the right skills to find a suitable job and adults with an opportunity to update skills throughout their working life. Therefore, the Commission wants to encourage more people to take up vocational education, to improve the quality of the training on offer and to make it easier to move between jobs and countries. EU Ministers are expected to discuss and adopt the plan in the second half of this year.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | June 9, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/education/vocational-education/doc/com296_en.pdf.

Ombudsman calls for less red tape in the EU’s new financial rules

The European Ombudsman, P. Nikiforos Diamandouros, has called on the European Commission to ensure that EU financial procedures take account of the right to good administration. In a seminar concerning the forthcoming reform of the Union’s Financial Regulation, he stressed the importance of reducing unnecessary administrative burdens for businesses, NGOs, organisations and other contractors, as well of respecting their right to be treated fairly.

- ➔ Source: European Ombudsman | June 10, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Ombudsman website: <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/resources/otherdocument.faces>.

European Commission set to help Palestinian economy with full opening of EU market

EU Trade Commissioner, Karel De Gucht, and Palestinian Minister of National Economy, Hasan Abu-Libdeh, on June 10, 2010 discussed measures to enhance EU-Palestinian bilateral trade relations and to facilitate trade of Palestinian products to EU markets.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | June 10, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/creating-opportunities/bilateral-relations/countries/palestine>.

International Shipping Conference - June 10, 2010 (Copenhagen)



On June 10, 2010 Siim Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Transport, delivered a speech on the occasion of the International Shipping Conference held in Copenhagen. In his speech, he stressed “The European approach to transport policy has always been to focus on quality and to raise standards for the sector such as improved working conditions, higher safety and security conditions as well as the strengthening of passenger rights. Europe is growing together thanks to an ever increasing transport network involving all modes of transport. Transport is key to the European economy – accounting for about 7% of GDP and over 5% of total employment in the EU – and it performs an essential function for the efficient functioning of our society.”

- Source: European Commission | June 10, 2010
- To read the full speech, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/10/302&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

EU launches European Social Dialogue with education workers and employers

On June 11, 2010 the European Commission launched a new Social Dialogue Committee in education with teachers, trainers, lecturers and education authorities from across the EU to tackle challenges facing their sector. Education and research employs 14.7 million workers and represents 5.7% of EU GDP. This new Committee brings together trade unions and employers’ organisations from the sector to discuss issues such as the quality of education, classroom violence, adapting to demographic trends and the impacts of public spending cuts. Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees can launch joint actions, adopt guidelines and conclude agreements, contributing directly to shaping EU labour legislation and policies.

- Source: European Commission | June 11, 2010
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=480&langId=en>.

Social partners’ joint statement on the Europe 2020 strategy

On June 11, 2010 the cross-sectoral European social partners published their joint statement on the Europe 2020 strategy. Please consult the BusinessEurope website to review the full statement: <http://www.busineurope.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=568&DocID=26572>.

UK Security Industry Authority - New licence processing targets

The UK Security Industry Authority (SIA) has changed its licence processing targets to reflect the continuous improvements it has made in this area. Previously, the SIA aimed to process 85% of licence applications from UK and EEA nationals within 33 working days, and 80% of all licence applications (UK, EEA and other) within 40 working days. The SIA now aims to process a minimum of 80% of all correctly completed applications within 30 working days, irrespective of the nationality of the applicant.

- Source: UK Security Industry Authority | June 11, 2010
- For further information, please consult the UK SIA website: <http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/pages/licensing-stats-intro.aspx>.

The European Union celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Schengen Area

On June 14, 2010 the European Union celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Schengen Agreement providing for a gradual abolishment of controls at the common borders.

- Source: European Commission | June 14, 2010
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/249&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

European Commission welcomes Council's decision to start the ratification process of the Stabilisation and Association agreement with Serbia

The Council decided on June 14, 2010 to unblock the ratification process of the Stabilisation and Association agreement (SAA) between the EU and Serbia. Recalling in the Council Conclusions that cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) is an essential element of the SAA, Ministers agreed to submit the agreement to their respective Parliaments for ratification, as well as to the European Parliament for its approval.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | June 14, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/731&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

Croatia sees breakthrough in EU talks

The Netherlands and Slovenia have lifted their veto of two key chapters in Croatia's ongoing EU membership talks, raising hopes that the country could soon become the bloc's 28th member. The Netherlands lifted its veto of the judiciary and fundamental rights chapters, while Slovenia said it had no reservations about starting negotiations on the competition chapter, the Croatian press writes. On June 16, 2010 the Croatian Parliament adopted amendments to the constitution to bring it in line with EU requirements. Parliament adopted by an overwhelming majority of 131 votes for and four against the constitutional changes, as proposed by the government of the ruling Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ).

- ➔ Source: EurActiv | June 15, 2010 and June 17, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EurActiv website: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/croatia-sees-breakthrough-eu-talks-news-495240> and <http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/croatia-aligns-its-constitution-eu-news-495330>.

May 2010 Euro Area annual inflation up to 1.6% - EU stable at 2.0%

Euro area annual inflation was 1.6% in May 2010, up from 1.5% in April 2010. A year earlier, the rate was 0.0%. Monthly inflation was 0.1% in May 2010. EU annual inflation was 2.0% in May 2010, unchanged compared with April 2010. A year earlier the rate was 0.8%. Monthly inflation was 0.2% in May 2010.

- ➔ Source: Eurostat | June 16, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the Eurostat website: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/2-16062010-BP/EN/2-16062010-BP-EN.PDF.

Commission welcomes European Council's decision to open accession negotiations with Iceland



A decisive step in Iceland's bid to join the EU has been taken today with the decision by the European Council to open accession negotiations with the country, which applied for EU membership in July 2009. The Council's decision follows the European Commission's Opinion of February 2010 recommending the opening of accession negotiations. On the basis of the Commission opinion, EU Member States concluded unanimously that Iceland meets the political criteria for membership but that it will have to address existing obligations under the EEA, and areas of weakness, including financial services, during accession negotiations.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | June 17, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/759&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=nl>.

Who is in charge of the Euro? How the European Union's economic governance has changed in recent months



The Eurozone debt crisis has posed problems for the European Union's leadership that were not envisaged even by the most recent rulebook, the Treaty of Lisbon. Greece's difficulties and the threat of them spreading to other parts of the Eurozone have prompted a series of improvisations that are still evolving. The balance of power and influence over economic governance has been shifting, and it is not yet clear where it will come to rest. Some key figures - notably Wolfgang Schäuble, Germany's Finance Minister - have floated the idea of changing the EU's governing Treaties to define the balance more clearly. But a revision of the Treaty would be a lengthy process, a luxury that the Member States cannot afford. So the changes in economic governance are coming about initially through improvisation in areas where the Treaty is least prescriptive. The focus has been on intergovernmental cooperation, unmediated by the European Commission or the European Parliament, and on the working methods of the Eurozone, which was until recently confined to the informal meeting of the Finance Ministers from the Eurozone countries, known as the Eurogroup.

- ➔ Source: European Voice | June 17, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Voice website: <http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/who-is-in-charge-of-the-euro-/68263.aspx>.

European Commission adopts draft agreement with the US to track terrorist finance



On June 15, 2010 the European Commission adopted the draft Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (TFTP) Agreement with the United States. The Agreement contains guarantees that ensure protection of EU citizens' data, while enabling US and EU law enforcement authorities to make use of a paramount tool in the fight against terrorism. It will now be up to the Council to approve the Agreement which will require the consent of the European Parliament before it can enter into force. On June 22, 2010 the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) issued an opinion on the European Commission's draft Agreement with the United States, available on the EDPS website:

http://www.edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/webdav/site/mySite/shared/Documents/Consultation/Opinions/2010/10-06-22_Opinion_TFTP_EN.pdf. On June 24, 2010 the European Parliament clinched approval for greater EU oversight of US investigations into the financial activity of terror suspects within Europe: <http://www.statewatch.org/news/2010/jun/eu-usa-draft-swift-agreement-com-final-2.pdf>.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | June 15, 2010, June 22, 2010 and June 25, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the website of Commissioner Malmström, responsible for Home Affairs: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/malmstrom/news/default_en.htm#20100615 and the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=EDPS/10/10&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

Services Directive: good progress on implementation, but more needs to be done

The European Commission has on June 24, 2010 taken a new step to ensure that work is speeded up in the twelve Member States that have not yet finalised implementation of the Services Directive. The Directive (Directive 2006/123/EC) was adopted end 2006 and it had to be implemented in all EU countries by December 28, 2009. It covers a large variety of economic activities - such as retail, construction services, tourism services and the services of many regulated professions - representing around 40% of EU GDP and employment. The Directive commits Member States to carry out an ambitious reform programme, combining the lifting of unjustified regulatory barriers and administrative simplification. It is expected to significantly contribute to boosting growth and job creation. Overall, the preliminary results of the Directive's complex implementation process are encouraging. The large majority of Member States have already adopted "horizontal" implementing legislation and in most countries a number of changes to specific regulations have also already been made.

The Commission has on June 24, 2010 sent a reasoned opinion to those Member States who have not yet notified to the Commission the adoption of all the regulatory changes required by the Directive - namely Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Luxemburg, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and the United Kingdom.

- Source: European Commission | June 24, 2010
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/821&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

Quarterly Report on the Euro Area focuses on challenges ahead for Euro Area exporters

Euro Area exports, their pre-crisis performance and the challenges lying ahead, is the theme of the focus section of the second issue of the Quarterly Report on the Euro Area in 2010. During the decade preceding the crisis, Euro Area exporters benefited from robust growth in neighbouring emerging markets and a strong specialisation in some key export sectors that acted as powerful export drivers. Their relatively strong competitive position augurs well for their capacity to exploit the opportunities offered by the ongoing recovery in world trade. This will, however, require tackling a number of important challenges revealed by the crisis. By creating incentives for innovation and improving the business environment policy-makers can help companies face these challenges. In addition to trade, the report also sheds new light on the causes of the recent recession in the Euro Area and the impact of the crisis on cyclical convergence between Euro Area Member States.

- Source: European Commission | June 24, 2010
- To read the Quarterly Report on the Euro Area 2010, please consult the European Commission website:
http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/qr_euro_area/2010/pdf/qrea201002_en.pdf.

European Parliament public hearing on standardisation - IMCO reaches out to all stakeholders

The public hearing held on June 23, 2010 was a first step for the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) to lay out its views on the future of standardisation in an own initiative report to be presented shortly before the Commission presents its "Standardisation package" in November 2010. The hearing brought together leading experts from major stakeholders in standardisation including standardisation organisations, industry, consumers and workers' associations. Not only industry representatives, but also the voice of workers and consumers must be included in the discussions on the future outline of new standardisations. The invited speakers underlined and further emphasised the need to reach out to especially SMEs, environmental organisations as well as organisations representing disabled people and the elderly. New areas to be covered by standardisations include in particular the fields of IT and communications, where product innovation necessitates new standards, as well as the service area which has gained importance as a result of the shift in European production from industry towards service businesses. Other areas mentioned were nanotechnology and environmental protection. The rapporteur Edvard Kožušník will now begin the work to sum up the Parliament's position in an own initiative report. The report is expected to be voted in Committee in September 2010 and presented to the Plenary in October 2010. In parallel, the Commission is currently working on a "Standardisation package" to update European standardisations. The legislative package is expected to be submitted to the Parliament and the Council for co-decision in November 2010.

- Source: European Parliament | June 24, 2010
- For further information, please consult the European Parliament website:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/hearingsCom.do;jsessionid=DC6A43A17F9DE68150597E24D4E50613.node2?language=EN&body=IMCO>.

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