

News from the Member Federations | General CoESS news

- VPB (Dutch CoESS member) - Industry Scan 2009
- Aproser (Spanish CoESS member) updates its sociological study of the private security industry in Spain
- Crisis in the Spanish private security market - Aproser (Spanish CoESS member) reports

News from the CoESS Working Committees

- European Sectoral Social Dialogue Working Group Meeting - July 6, 2010 (Brussels)

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

- European Commission adopts Regulation 573/2010
- European Commission updates list of airlines banned from European airspace
- European Commission approves tool to facilitate compliance for small emitters
- EU sets 2013 cap under Emissions Trading Scheme

News from the European Union

- European Commission consults stakeholders on the implementation of the Services Directive
- Belgian Presidency of the European Union
- European Commission Workshop on Societal Security Research and Development
- UK Security Industry Authority publishes Customer Service Commitment
- European Commission welcomes European Parliament approval for maritime passenger rights
- European Commission welcomes European Parliament approval of new legislation lessening the administrative burden for the maritime sector
- Irish Private Security Authority - New arrangements for employee application acknowledgements
- Parliament gives green light for SWIFT II
- European Commission proposes package to boost consumer protection and confidence in financial services
- EU reaffirms its commitment to Turkey
- Belgians seek to enforce Lisbon Treaty social clause
- UK Security Industry Authority licence framework consultation
- Half of Europeans would consider moving for work
- European Commission proposes common entry and residence conditions for third-country seasonal workers
- Estonia joins the Euro family
- MEPs want to speed up work on late payments
- EU launches negotiations on Association Agreements with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia
- European Commission adopts a proposal for an EU Regulation to facilitate professional cross-border transportation of Euro cash by road
- European e-Justice internet portal offers quick answers to citizens' legal questions
- EU looking to reset relations with Switzerland
- EU Counter-Terrorism Policy: European Commission outlines main achievements and future challenges
- Staff Working Document on the functioning and potential of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue
- EDPS calls for a comprehensive data protection framework for the Internal Market Information System
- EU opens accession negotiations with Iceland
- Flash estimate July 2010 - Euro area inflation estimated at 1.7%

News from the Member Federations | General CoESS news

VPB (Dutch CoESS member) - Industry Scan 2009



Each year, VPB, the Dutch private security association, active member of CoESS, commissions an independent research agency to conduct an Industry Scan to consolidate the sector's key facts and figures. The core of the study comprises a questionnaire, which is circulated among VPB's membership representing more than 90% of market turnover. Turnover in 2009 declined by 0.7% to € 1.43 billion. This development will most likely continue its course in 2010. No less than 53% of interviewees confirm that the first quarter of 2010 has witnessed a decline in turnover, compared to the first quarter of 2009. The number of employees in the sector has risen slightly by 0.5% to 30,936 of which 26,029 FTEs. Earnings have thus also slightly increased by 0.6% to € 660 million. Personnel hiring declined by 50%. Figures show that the financial and economic crisis is meanwhile also tangible in the private security sector.

- Source: VPB | Checklist June 2010
- To read the full Industry Scan 2009, please consult the VPB website (Dutch): http://www.vpb.nl/media/Onderzoek_Heliview.pdf.

Aproser (Spanish CoESS member) updates its sociological study of the private security industry in Spain



The Spanish agency 'Análisis e Investigación' conducted, at the request of Aproser, the Spanish private security association, active member of CoESS, the second study on the image of the private security industry in Spain. Approximately 2,000 people were interviewed covering the 17 Spanish regions. The questionnaire included questions relating to the image of private security guards and private security companies and areas of interest for the private security industry according to citizens.

- Source: Aproser | July 2010
- To download the second sociological study of the private security industry in Spain, please consult the Aproser website (Spanish): <http://www.aproser.org/pdf/prensa/EstudioSociologico2010.pdf>.

Crisis in the Spanish private security market - Aproser (Spanish CoESS member) reports



Aproser published a press statement on the updated figures of the Spanish private security market for guarding and Cash-in-Transit (CIT) activities. According to this report (update first quarter of 2010), the reduction of private security services in the last two years reaches 6% in guarding services (working hours) and 9% in the CIT area (stops). Current market figures resemble the 2006 figures for the guarding segment and the 2004-2005 figures for the CIT area.

- Source: Aproser | July 2010
- To read the press statement, please consult the Aproser website (Spanish): <http://www.aproser.org/pdf/prensa/NPPrimerTrimestre2010.pdf>.

News from the CoESS Working Committees

European Sectoral Social Dialogue Working Group Meeting - July 6, 2010 (Brussels)

On July 6, 2010 a European Sectoral Social Dialogue Working Group Meeting was organised in Brussels. Topics on the agenda included: European Commission White Paper on Professional Cross-Border Transportation of Euro Cash by Road between Member States in the Euro Area, CoESS/UNI Europa Mobility Project, Third Party Violence multisectoral project, Social Considerations in Public Procurement (European Commission Guide on Buying Social and European Commission cost-benefit analysis of socially responsible public procurement).

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

European Commission adopts Regulation 573/2010

On June 30, 2010 the European Commission adopted Regulation 573/2010 amending Regulation (EU) 185/2010 laying down detailed measures for the implementation of common basic standards for aviation security. Regulation 573/2010 organises the use of explosive detection dogs in the field of aviation security.

- Source: Aviation Security Services Association International (ASSA-I) | July 2, 2010
- To review Regulation 573/2010, please consult the ASSA-I website: http://www.assa-int.org/_Uploads/dbsAttachedFiles/EURegulation5732010.pdf.

European Commission updates list of airlines banned from European airspace

The European Commission has updated the list of airlines banned in the European Union to include one carrier from Surinam and to expand the operating restrictions on Iran Air. In addition, two carriers from Indonesia have been removed from the list of banned airlines.

- Source: European Commission | July 6, 2010
- To view the updated list of airlines banned from European airspace, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air-ban/doc/list_en.pdf.

European Commission approves tool to facilitate compliance for small emitters

On July 9, 2010 the European Commission adopted a Regulation approving the use of a tool to estimate fuel consumption by small aircraft operators as part of their compliance with the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). The tool was developed by the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL). The tool enables aircraft operators with few flights or emissions to use simplified monitoring procedures.

- Source: European Commission | July 9, 2010
- For further information, please consult the EUROCONTROL website: http://www.eurocontrol.int/environment/public/standard_page/small_emitters.html.

EU sets 2013 cap under Emissions Trading Scheme

Greenhouse gas emissions from industrial installations covered by the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) will be capped at just under 1.927 billion allowances for 2013, the European Commission confirmed on July 9, 2010. The Commission's decision determines the maximum amount of emissions from around 11,000 industrial installations and power plants regulated by the EU ETS in 2013. The companies will have to surrender an allowance for each tonne of carbon they emit. In the course of the third trading phase, which runs from 2013 to 2020, the cap will be lowered annually by 1.74%, taking as a basis the average cap in the second trading phase (2008-2012). This amounts to a reduction of around 35,374,181 allowances per year, the EU Executive calculated. The Commission said, however, that it would revise the cap in September to take into account the extension of the scheme's scope post-2012. At present, it does not account for new sectors such as aluminium or gases like nitrous oxide, for instance. Moreover, the cap would be further shrunk if the EU decides to increase its emissions reduction target to 30% below 1990 levels by 2020, as it has promised to do should other industrialised countries make similar commitments during UN negotiations on a new climate treaty, the Commission said.

- Source: European Commission | July 9, 2010
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/emission/ets_post2012_en.htm and http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/emission/pdf/dec_4658.pdf.

News from the European Union

European Commission consults stakeholders on the implementation of the Services Directive

The transposition deadline for the Directive on Services for the Internal Market was the end of December 2009. Since January 2010, all EU Member States have engaged, together with the European Commission, in a peer review process of mutually evaluating certain aspects of their national legal frameworks applicable to service providers. This innovative working method, known as the “mutual evaluation process” was foreseen in the Directive. It is in the context of this process that the European Commission is inviting interested parties to share their views on those aspects of national legislation which are being discussed by Member States in the “mutual evaluation process”. The consultation is open until September 13, 2010.

- Source: European Commission | June 30, 2010
- The consultation is available on the European Commission website:
http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2010/services_directive_en.htm.

Belgian Presidency of the European Union



From July 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010 Belgium will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the twelfth time. This will be a special Presidency for several reasons. First of all, Belgium will have to carry out its duties within the framework of the new Treaty of Lisbon, which came into force on December 1, 2009 and involves a whole series of innovations. Secondly, the Belgian Presidency takes place against a background of financial and economic crisis and fundamental changes in terms of international economic governance. From January 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 Spain, Belgium and Hungary will preside the Council of the European Union. Together, the three countries form a team

Presidency, also called the ‘trio’. As President, Belgium will have to work closely with the other two countries in the team Presidency, as well as with the new President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, and the High Representative, who presides the Council for Foreign Affairs, Catherine Ashton. Likewise, as President of the Council of the EU, Belgium will work closely with the Commission on the basis of the work programme that it presented on March 31, 2010. Our country will also work very closely with the European Parliament, which has been given a much bigger role by the Treaty of Lisbon.

- Source: Belgian Presidency of the European Union | July 1, 2010
- To read the special issue that was published in honour of the Belgian Presidency, please consult the website of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union:
http://www.eutrio.be/files/bveu/media/documents/Belgium_Unlimited_Special_Issue_Belgian_Presidency.pdf.
- To read the Programme of the Belgian Presidency, please consult the website of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union:
http://www.eutrio.be/files/bveu/media/documents/Programme_EN.pdf.

European Commission Workshop on Societal Security Research and Development



On July 1, 2010 the European Commission organised a Workshop on Societal Security Research and Development with the aim to provide input for the remaining work programme of the Security Research theme of FP7 and in view of FP8. The focus of the workshop was to broadly look at the societal dimension of security research, and at how to mainstream these aspects into security research activities. This was also an important outcome of the work of ESRIFF, the European Security Research and Innovation Forum. The conclusions and recommendations from the workshop will be presented at the annual Security Research Conference in Oostende, Belgium, on

September 22-24, 2010 and will also serve as a basis for preparing the societal security activities (activity 6 and mainstreaming throughout the WP) in the remaining two work programmes (2012 and 2013) of FP7 in the Security Research Theme, and in view of FP8.

- Source: European Commission | July 1, 2010
- For further information and to view the presentations that were delivered during the Workshop, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4317&tpa_id=168&lang=en.

UK Security Industry Authority publishes Customer Service Commitment

On July 2, 2010 the UK Security Industry Authority (SIA) published a Customer Service Commitment designed to ensure licence applicants are fully informed about the standard of service they can expect from the SIA. The commitment is based on two long-term objectives that shape everything the SIA wants to achieve: delivering a service that meets the needs of customers and delivering value. The commitment sets out service levels that applicants can expect. The SIA aims to: process correctly completed applications within six weeks from the date received, answer all calls to the contact centre within 30 seconds, answer written enquiries (letters, e-mails and faxes) within 3 working days and respond to written complaints within 12 working days. The commitment also explains why a small number of applications may take longer than 6 weeks. Assistant Director of Customer Services, Christy Hopkins, said: "We want to ensure that we offer licence applicants the best service possible and keep them informed about the high standard they can expect when dealing with us. We will regularly review our commitment to make sure we continue to meet, if not exceed, the needs of our customers."

- Source: UK Security Industry Authority (SIA) | July 2, 2010
- For further information, please consult the UK SIA website: <http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Pages/about-news.aspx?newsID=225>.

European Commission welcomes European Parliament approval for maritime passenger rights

The European Commission welcomed the European Parliament voting on July 6, 2010 in favour of a Regulation on rights of passengers travelling by sea and by inland waterways. After air and rail, also transport by water will be covered by a specific set of rights for passengers at EU level. Maritime and inland waterway passengers, and in particular passengers with a disability and people with a reduced mobility, will enjoy new rights that will protect them when they travel anywhere within the European Union. The Council will now have to confirm the agreement reached with the Parliament for the Regulation to be formally adopted. The Regulation is due to enter into force two years after its adoption.

- Source: European Commission | July 6, 2010
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/passengers/maritime/maritime_en.htm and the European Parliament website: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/062-77802-186-07-28-910-20100705IPR77798-05-07-2010-2010-false/default_en.htm.

European Commission welcomes European Parliament approval of new legislation lessening the administrative burden for the maritime sector

The European Commission welcomes the European Parliament's approval of the draft Directive intended to simplify and facilitate the administrative procedures for ships entering and leaving European ports. The provisions of the Directive will be phased in between 2012 and 2015. This Directive will contribute to making maritime transport more attractive and supporting maritime activity, particularly in small and medium-sized commercial ports.

- Source: European Commission | July 6, 2010
- For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/maritime/index_en.htm.

Irish Private Security Authority - New arrangements for employee application acknowledgements

As of July 1, 2010 the Irish Private Security Authority (PSA) will no longer automatically issue letters allowing applicants to work while their application is being processed. Letters will now only issue where the applicant indicates on the Garda Vetting Form that they have no convictions and where the applicant has an offer of employment. The new letters will be employer specific and will include the name of the employer to whom it applies. If an applicant changes employment during the application process they will require a new letter for their new employer. Where an applicant indicates on the Garda Vetting Form that they have no convictions and subsequently the vetting results show a conviction, the application will be refused.

- Source: Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA) | July 8, 2010
- For further information, please consult the Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA): http://www.isia.ie/isia/Main/2010_News_PSANew.htm or the Irish Private Security Authority (PSA): <http://www.psa.gov.ie>.

Parliament gives green light for SWIFT II



The new version of the SWIFT anti-terrorist agreement on bank data transfers to the US was approved by the European Parliament on July 8, 2010. MEPs rejected the agreement in its previous form four months ago but since then have negotiated certain safeguards for Europe's citizens and won an undertaking that the EU will start work in the second half of this year on a European data processing system that precludes the need to transfer data in bulk to the US. The recommendation that Parliament approve the agreement, drafted by Alexander Alvaro (ALDE, DE), was adopted by 484 votes to 109 with 12 abstentions. The agreement is due to take effect on August 1, 2010 this year. The agreement will not cover financial transactions between EU states but only those to non-EU countries. Article 4 of the accord rules out transfers of any data relating to the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA). The compromise was backed by the EPP, S&D, ALDE and ECR groups. The Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL and part of EFD opposed it.

- ➔ Source: European Parliament | July 8, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Parliament website: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus_page/008-76988-176-06-26-901-20100625FCS76850-25-06-2010-2010/default_p001c017_en.htm.

European Commission proposes package to boost consumer protection and confidence in financial services

As part of its work creating a safer and sounder financial system, preventing a future crisis and restoring consumer confidence, the European Commission on July 12, 2010 proposed changes to existing European rules to further improve protection for bank account holders and retail investors. Furthermore, the Commission has launched a public consultation on options to improve protection for insurance policy holders, including the possibility of setting up Insurance Guarantee Schemes in all Member States. For bank account holders, the measures adopted mean that in case their bank failed, they would receive their money back faster (within 7 days), increased coverage (up to € 100,000) and better information on how and when they are protected. For investors who use investment services, the Commission proposes faster compensation if an investment firm fails to return the investor's assets due to fraud, administrative malpractice or operational errors, while the level of compensation is to go up from € 20,000 to € 50,000. Investors will also receive better information on when the compensation scheme would apply and get better protection against fraudulent misappropriations where their assets are held by a third party - such as in the recent Madoff affair. The proposals, fully in line with the EU's commitments under the G20, are now passed to the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers for consideration.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | July 12, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/918&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

EU reaffirms its commitment to Turkey

Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Commission Vice-President, and Štefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement, on July 13, 2010 participated in the European Union-Turkey High Level Political Dialogue Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey. The main objective of the meeting - in which Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu and Chief Negotiator Egemen Bağış also participated - was to reaffirm the EU's commitment to Turkey and explore ways how the EU and Turkey can enhance cooperation in the region.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | July 13, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/player/streaming.cfm?type=ebs&sid=163927>.

Belgians seek to enforce Lisbon Treaty social clause

During its six-month EU Presidency, Belgium will seek to enforce the so-called 'social clause' of the Lisbon Treaty, ensuring that policymakers in Brussels and national capitals keep a close eye on the social impact of all new legislation, a meeting of EU Social Ministers heard on July 9, 2010. Following a meeting with her European peers, Belgian Employment Minister, Joëlle Milquet, said the

Presidency would strive to guarantee “adequate social protection” in the key EU policies which emerge during its six-month (July-December 2010) mandate. To achieve this, she noted that the main tools at Belgium’s disposal are the “social clause” of the Lisbon Treaty and Guideline 10 of the Europe 2020 strategy, which aims to promote social inclusion and combat poverty. Milquet highlighted a number of important initiatives expected this autumn which Belgium will seek to suffuse with strong social obligations. In particular, upcoming EU flagship initiatives - such as ‘New skills for new jobs’ and ‘Youth on the move’ - will serve this purpose, she claimed.

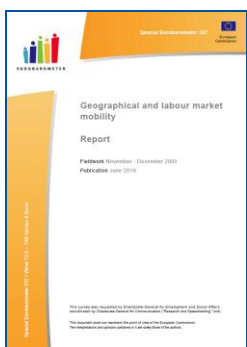
- ➔ Source: Belgian EU Presidency | July 9, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the Belgian EU Presidency website: <http://www.eutrio.be/pressrelease/informal-epsco-meeting-social-partners-and-social-platform>.

UK Security Industry Authority licence framework consultation

Following the informal consultation on whether a single generic United Kingdom Security Industry Authority (SIA) licence should be introduced, the SIA will not be developing a non sector-specific licence. Overall, feedback from the industry showed that while there was some interest in a more integrated approach, the option for a single generic licence card did not receive widespread support. At present, SIA licence cards are specific to each sector. Operatives working in more than one sector may need to be issued with multiple licences. The two options set out in the consultation were: to introduce a single generic licence card covering all of the licensable activities that the holder is qualified to undertake; or to continue to issue sector-specific and multiple licences. SIA Director of Strategy and Corporate Services, Hazel Russell said: “I would like to thank respondents for their contributions to this informal consultation. The responses did not provide clear support for the development of a non-sector specific licence, so at present we will not be making changes to the licences that we issue. However, we will now reconsider how we have defined the ‘manned guarding’ sectors and we will take account of the consultation responses in identifying opportunities for limiting the requirement for multiple licences and for reducing administrative burdens. This, combined with our ongoing customer service improvements will help to ensure that any future changes will continue to be stakeholder-led.”

- ➔ Source: United Kingdom Security Industry Authority | July 13, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the UK SIA website: <http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Pages/about-news.aspx?newsID=227>.

Half of Europeans would consider moving for work



The European Commission on July 13, 2010 adopted a report setting out in a consolidated way the rights of Europeans to live and work in another EU country. The report also provides an update on legal developments in the past decade. Currently, 2.3% of people in the EU reside in a Member State other than their own. However, a new Eurobarometer survey also presented today finds that 17% of Europeans envisage working abroad in the future and 48% would consider looking for work in another country or region if they were to lose their job.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | July 13, 2010
- ➔ To view the report and the Eurobarometer reports, please consult the European Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=847&furtherNews=yes>.

European Commission proposes common entry and residence conditions for third-country seasonal workers

The European Commission on July 13, 2010 presented a proposal for a Directive on seasonal employment. The proposal aims at establishing a common procedure for entry and residence in the EU and defines the rights of seasonal workers from third-countries.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | July 13, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/malmstrom/news/default_en.htm#20100713.

Estonia joins the Euro family

On July 13, 2010 the Council took the formal decision which will pave the way for the introduction of the Euro in Estonia as of January 1, 2011 and will become the 17th European Union country to share the Euro currency. “Estonia has achieved a high degree of sustainable economic convergence and is ready to adopt the Euro on January 1, 2011. We commend Estonia for its longstanding commitment to prudent policies. To ensure that the adoption of the Euro is a success, Estonia must pursue its efforts to maintain a prudent fiscal policy stance. Estonia needs also to remain vigilant and react early and decisively in case signs of build-up of macroeconomic imbalances and/or losses of competitiveness were to appear. Estonia must now continue with its practical preparations to ensure that the changeover takes place smoothly”, said Olli Rehn, EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs. The official conversion rate is set to be 15.6466 kroons per € 1.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | July 13, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/articles/euro/2010-07-13-estonia-will-join-the-euro-area_en.htm.

MEPs want to speed up work on late payments



The European Parliament has lost patience with the slow pace at which national governments are working on EU legislation about late payment of invoices. The MEPs have set a deadline for the Member States to finalise their work on the proposed law, whose provisions include setting a deadline for payment of bills by governments. The Parliament’s Internal Market Committee voted its opinion on the proposed legislation in April 2010. But the draft has yet to be put to a vote of the entire Parliament, which has already been postponed three times. Belgium, which took over the rotating Presidency of the Council of Ministers on July 1, 2010, has declared its intention to advance work on the dossier, saying that it hopes to secure a deal with the Parliament by the end of the year. Member State representatives on July 14, 2010 agreed a version of the draft legislation that Belgium can use in negotiations with the Parliament. It is the first time that the Council has had an agreed position on the draft law.

- ➔ Source: European Voice | July 15, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Voice website: <http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/meps-want-to-speed-up-work-on-late-payments/68527.aspx>.

EU launches negotiations on Association Agreements with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia

The first round of negotiations on an Association Agreement with Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia took place in the capitals of the three South Caucasus countries. The Agreements are based on joint commitments to a set of shared values and cover a wide range of areas, including political dialogue, justice, freedom and security, as well as trade and cooperation in sectoral policies.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | July 15, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/955&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

European Commission adopts a proposal for an EU Regulation to facilitate professional cross-border transportation of Euro cash by road

The European Commission adopted on July 15, 2010 a proposal for an EU Regulation to lift regulatory obstacles to professional cross-border transportation of Euro cash by road between Euro-area Member States. Paradoxically enough, professional transportation of Euro cash between Member States within the Euro area is still governed by national laws. Due to the strong differences between national legislations in this area it is generally very difficult to transport Euro banknotes and coins across borders on a professional basis and very little cross-border land transportation therefore takes place. That Euro banknotes and coins cannot circulate and be transported as freely as possible within the Euro area goes against the logic of the single currency.

After extensive consultations with stakeholders and Member States' experts, the Commission therefore put forward a proposal for a set of common EU rules that will apply to all professional cross-border transports of Euro cash by road. National rules will remain in force for domestic transports of Euro cash.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | July 15, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/euro/cash/transport/index_en.htm.

European e-Justice internet portal offers quick answers to citizens' legal questions



An Italian travelling in Germany needs a lawyer. A French entrepreneur wants to search the Hungarian land register. An Estonian judge has a question about the Spanish court system. At the moment, it may take weeks to get this information. Answers to these questions - in 22 European Union languages - will be a click away. The EU on July 15, 2010 launched the European e-Justice portal - an electronic one-stop-shop for access to justice throughout the EU. The website benefits citizens, businesses, lawyers and judges with cross-border legal questions and boosts mutual understanding of different legal systems by contributing to the creation of a single area of justice. With more than 12,000 pages of content, the first version provides information and links on laws and practices in all Member States. For example, the portal offers information on legal aid, judicial training, and videoconferencing, as well as links to legal databases, online insolvency and land registers. Justice information is now at the fingertips of more than 10 million citizens involved in cross-border judicial procedures each year.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | July 15, 2010
- ➔ The European e-Justice internet portal is available through the following website: <https://e-justice.europa.eu/home.do>.

EU looking to reset relations with Switzerland



With new institutions and powers granted by the Lisbon Treaty, the EU is looking to reset its relations with Switzerland, currently governed by 120-odd agreements covering everything from wrist watches to borderless travelling. One offer made to the Swiss is a "European Economic Area Lite", alluding to the current agreement with Norway, also a non-EU member who is fully integrated into the bloc's internal market and border-free Schengen area, but who unlike Bern automatically adopts any change to the EU laws. Yet in a country where direct democracy is so deeply rooted that almost every decision is taken by referendum, the idea to adopt such legal "automatism" is unacceptable. Another taboo subject for the Swiss public is the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice, which has the ultimate say if a country infringes EU law. If Switzerland adopted the legislation automatically, it could, in theory be taken to the Luxembourg court by the European Commission in cases of non-compliance. On top of the existing differences over a potential over-arching agreement, a new actor on the EU side is likely to complicate negotiations: the European Parliament. Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the EU legislature has the power to strike down any international agreements negotiated by the EU Commission.

- ➔ Source: EUobserver | July 19, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EUobserver website: <http://euobserver.com/9/30504/?rk=1>.

EU Counter-Terrorism Policy: European Commission outlines main achievements and future challenges

The European Commission adopted on July 20, 2010 a Communication taking stock of the main tools in place under the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Communication outlines achievements and foreseen upcoming challenges and initiatives, laying the foundation for a broader Internal Security Strategy, which is planned for autumn 2010.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | July 20, 2010

- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/350&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

Staff Working Document on the functioning and potential of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue

On July 23, 2010 the European Commission published its Staff Working Document on the functioning and potential of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue. This document aims to take stock of the main achievements of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue and to review the functioning of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees. It highlights the dynamics, outcomes and social impact of the Committees' work since 1998. It identifies possible improvements with a view to extending the scope and quality of the consultation and negotiation processes. The Commission intends to encourage the European and national sectoral social partners to make full use of their capacity to negotiate, reinforce their administrative capacity and representativeness and create synergies between sectors. The Commission will continue to foster integration of new players as well as better participation of new Member States' representatives. This assessment of European Sectoral Social Dialogue over the last 12 years shows the value of its contribution to the European social model. It shows that there is a direct correlation between the effectiveness of national Social Dialogue and effectiveness at European level, and that each energises the other. It highlights the need for Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees to face up to the need to adapt to new challenges and changes in policy. The current economic crisis has confirmed the importance of European Social Dialogue at both cross-industry and sectoral level, as well as the relevance of social partner initiatives tailored to the realities of companies and sectors.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | July 23, 2010
- ➔ To review the Staff Working Document, please consult the European Commission website:
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=329&langId=en>.

EDPS calls for a comprehensive data protection framework for the Internal Market Information System

On July 27, 2010 the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) addressed a letter to DG Internal Market in which he took stock of what has been achieved and what further progress needs to be made on the issues raised in the European Commission Report on the state of data protection in the Internal Market Information System (IMI). IMI is an online application that allows Member States to cooperate with each other in order to improve the implementation of Internal Market legislation. This also involves recording and sharing of relevant personal data. The EDPS welcomes the progress made thus far and encourages the Commission to implement further safeguards, using the principles of Privacy by design, and to continue cooperating, as necessary, with data protection authorities in Member States. Importantly, the EDPS also calls on the Commission to adopt a new legal instrument in order to establish a more comprehensive data protection framework for IMI.

- ➔ Source: European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) | July 27, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the EDPS website:
http://www.edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/webdav/site/mySite/shared/Documents/EDPS/PressNews/Press/2010/EDPS-2010-12_IMI_EN.pdf.

EU opens accession negotiations with Iceland



The first intergovernmental conference on the accession of Iceland to the European Union was held in Brussels on July 27, 2010, formally opening accession negotiations with this country. The Belgian Presidency delivered the EU Negotiating Framework, which outlines the principles, substance and procedures guiding the negotiations with Iceland, thus paving the way for the upcoming accession talks between Iceland and the EU.

- ➔ Source: European Commission | July 27, 2010
- ➔ For further information, please consult the European Commission website:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1011&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=nl>.

Flash estimate July 2010 - Euro area inflation estimated at 1.7%

Euro area annual inflation is expected to be 1.7% in July 2010 according to a flash estimate issued by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. It was 1.4% in June.

- Source: Eurostat | July 30, 2010
- For further information, please consult the Eurostat website: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/2-30072010-BP/EN/2-30072010-BP-EN.PDF.

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

- Telephone: +32 2 462 07 73
- E-mail: apeg-bybo@i-b-s.be or lvs@i-b-s.be
- For general information on CoESS, please consult the CoESS website: <http://www.coess.eu>