



Special notice

ESBA wishes you a good summer break!

The next ESBA Bulletin will be distributed in the first week of September 2011

IN BRIEFS

EU/Employment: Spain allowed restrictions on Romanian workers

On 26 July 2011, Chantal Hughes, spokesperson on behalf of Internal Market Commissioner Michel Barnier, made an announcement regarding limitations imposed by Spain against workers from Romania. Contrary to previous statements by the EU executive, the Commission now claims that given its difficult position due to the crisis, Spain is allowed to protect its job-market under “exceptional circumstances”. Concerns have been voiced as to other countries potentially imposing similar limitations.

For information on living and working in the Single Market, please click [here](#)

EU/Debt recovery: European Commission plans on enhancing cross-border debt recovery

On 25 July 2011, the European Commission proposed the introduction of a new Europe-wide preservation order to facilitate the recovery of cross-border debts to businesses. The motive for the Commission’s actions are the problems that occur under the current situation in which procedures for recovering debts from another country’s jurisdiction are complex, time consuming and expensive. Commissioner Viviane Reding announced her aims to single out this remaining weakness of the single market which is particularly problematic for SMEs, for whom difficulties in debt recovery can mean a substantial loss of turnover. A *European Account Preservation Order* will be created including regulation concerning both the debtors and the creditors. The aim is to increase confidence in the EU Single Market. The next step is its approval from the European Parliament and the Council

For the Commission’s memo on this issue, please click [here](#).

For more information on the European Account Preservation Order please click [here](#)

EU/Research and Innovation: “Participant Portal” replaces “CORDIS”

On 25 July 2011, DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission announced that the “Participant portal” will be the sole website in charge of FP7 calls. Services like RSS feeds, deep linking and e-mail notifications are also available to registered users.

To learn more about the “Participant Portal”, please click [here](#)

To learn more about DG Research and Innovation, please click [here](#)

EU/ Road Transport: European Commissions expects savings of €500 million per year under new tachograph rules

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On 19 July 2011, the European Commission announced its plan to revise the tachograph legislation to ameliorate the use of new technologies such as satellite positioning. The tachograph is a device that allows recording the hours of driving time, rest periods and periods of other work undertaken by a professional (lorry) driver. The proposals intends to make full use of the new technological opportunities such as location recording through satellite positioning, remote communication and a continuous update of the tachograph specifications. With this revision, the European Commission aims to create savings of more than €500 million per year whilst reducing administrative burden.

To learn more about tachograph rules, please click [here](#)

EU/ Research and Innovation: Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn unveils new call for proposals

On 19 July 2011, Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn revealed the new European Commission calls for proposals for research and innovation projects under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7). This new call will be the largest the European Commission has ever released. Its main focus is to tackle societal challenges such as climate change and to create sustainable growth and jobs. A package worth approximately €1 billion will be earmarked for project involving SMEs.

To read more about the FP7, please click [here](#)

For the ESBA publication on EU funding, please click [here](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Eurostat/R&D: Statistics regarding transnational cooperation in research

On 26 July 2011, the Statistical Office of the European Communities published results regarding national public funding to transnationally coordinated research in the EU, as well as a number of EFTA and accession countries. The article includes statistical data on national governments' funding in the field of Research and Development.

CONSULTATIONS

CURRENT:

Consultation on a new European regime for venture capital

Closes: 10 August 2011

The European Commission services have launched a consultation on a new European regime for venture capital. The new rules aim at facilitating cross-border fundraising and investments by venture capital funds. The initiative is one of the key actions to improve access to finance for innovative SMEs, as spelled out in the recently adopted Single Market Act.

To access the online consultation, please click [here](#)

Public Consultation on Cloud Computing

Closes: 31 August 2011

The European Commission launched a public consultation aiming at gathering opinions and recommendations from interested stakeholders, regarding the use of cloud computing. The feedback will be used to help shape a European Cloud Computing Strategy under the scope of the Digital Agenda for Europe.

European Small Business Alliance – Brussels Office

rue d'Idalie 9-13, B - 1050 Bruxelles

Tel. : +32 (2) 639 62 30 – Fax. : +32 (2) 644 90 17 – email : secretariat@esba-europe.org

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To access the consultation, please click [here](#)

Consultation on promoting Social Investment Funds as part of the Social Business Initiative

Closes: 14 September 2011

The European Commission has launched a public consultation in order to seek feedback on possible options for aiding social businesses by means of investments from private individuals channeled through investment funds.

ONGOING:

Online consultation on administrative burdens reduction

Ongoing

The European Commission has launched an online consultation on the reduction of administrative burdens. Inspired by examples of Best Practice in Belgium and the Netherlands, the consultation invites entrepreneurs to identify unnecessary red tape in order to help the EU improve the quality of its legislation. The consultation is part of the Action Programme to reduce admin burdens on businesses in the EU by 25% in 2012.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#)

COMING UP

EU Institutions: Important dates

04 August 2011 - Governing Council of the European Central Bank

29 to 31 August 2011 – European Parliament Committee Meetings (Brussels)

31 August 2011 – Weekly meeting of the College of the Commissioners