



Business Support on Your Doorstep

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EU NEWS

Agreement between the EU Member States to align EU legislation on classification, labelling and packaging of chemical substances and mixtures to the United Nations Globally Harmonised System (GHS)

This new system will ensure that the same hazards will be described and labelled in the same way all around the world. By using internationally agreed classification criteria and labelling elements, it is expected to facilitate trade and to contribute towards global efforts to protect humans and the environment from hazardous effects of chemicals. The new Regulation will complement the REACH Regulation on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals. The European Parliament already approved the GHS regulation on the 3rd of September this year. The next step will be its publication in the EU Official Journal, thereby making the EU one of the international leaders in the actual uptake of the UN system.

DG Enterprise and Industry: webpages on REACH and GHS Regulations

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/index_en.htm

DG Environment: webpages on the classification, labelling and packaging of chemical substances and mixtures

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/ghs/index_en.htm

Contact details in DG Enterprise and Industry

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/information/contact/index_en.htm

Contact details of DG Environment

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/contact/contact_en.htm

New agreement on the wine trade between Australia and the European Community

It was signed on 1st December 2008 by EU Commissioner for Agriculture Mariann Fischer Boel and Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Stephen Smith. It outlines the rules governing exports and imports of wine in Europe and Australia for all affected producers and will replace the one signed in 1994. The European Community is Australia's largest export market.

The 1994 agreement stated that Australian producers would stop using the important EU names such as 'Champagne', 'Port' and 'Sherry' and eight other European geographical indications, along with some traditional expressions such as, 'Amontillado', 'Claret', and 'Auslese'. The 2008 agreement sets clear dates for the phase-out of these terms. The new agreement also outlines the conditions for Australia to continue to use a number of quality wine terms, such as 'vintage', 'cream' and 'tawny' to describe wines exported to Europe and sold domestically. The European Community and Australia agreed to protect each other's geographical indications in the agreement.

DG Agriculture and Rural Development webpage

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/wine/third/index_en.htm

Australian government webpage

<http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/hort-wine/wine-policy>

Contact details of DG Agriculture and Rural Development

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/contact/index_en.htm



WES: the European Network to Promote Women's Entrepreneurship

Launched by the Commission, the WES has members from 30 European countries (EU, Iceland, Norway and Turkey). The delegates in the network represent central national governments and institutions with the responsibility to promote female entrepreneurship. WES members provide advice, support, information and contacts regarding existing support measures for female entrepreneurs. They also help in the identification of good practices.

WES webpage including contact details

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/support_measures/women/wes.htm

Pan-European metrology research programme

Metrology, the science of measurement, has applications in all fields. It also plays an important role in supporting standardization, both in Europe and worldwide, and is hence of crucial importance for the industry.

The European Commission has put forward a proposal for a joint European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP).

Cordis webpage → EMRP

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=30208

The European Commission released its Single Market Review

This Commission Staff Working Document outlines a series of measures, which have already been taken or are in the pipeline and will help create the conditions to re-launch the European economy. It puts consumers and SMEs at the centre of policy-making and set out a new approach to the Single Market policy.

Stronger contractual rights, the removal of unjustified obstacles to cross-border buying, the introduction of effective redress when things go wrong and the availability of clearer and better information for citizens about their single market rights are among the initiatives which are underway. Safer financial products - bank accounts, savings, investment products and payments – were also prioritised in 2008.

For companies, and SMEs, single market policy has prioritised lower costs and administrative burdens, simpler company rules and better access to markets in other Member States. The Commission has also tabled a proposal for a simple, single company statute. SMEs will soon be able to obtain payments from their debtors more promptly, use electronic procedures instead of paperwork and deal with administrative formalities through one contact point.

The "Single Market Review" on the webpage of DG Internal Market and Services

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/strategy/index_en.htm#one

Contact details of DG Internal Market and Services

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/internal_market/contact_en.htm



The European Commission updated the lists of Contracting Authorities and Utilities that have to follow EU public procurement rules

These lists will give citizens and businesses the opportunity to identify which public authorities in the EU have to submit their public contracts to EU-wide tender procedures. As well as improving accountability and transparency in this area, the updated lists are intended to offer more opportunities for business to participate in public contracts.

Total public procurement in the EU – i.e. the purchases of goods, services and public works by governments and public utilities - is estimated at about 17% of the Union's GDP or €1900 billion in 2006. EU public procurement rules apply to purchases by public authorities and utilities falling above certain thresholds.

EU public procurement rules apply to several kinds of public authorities: from national ministries to local councils, from schools to universities, but also to hospitals, airports, railway operators, museums, postal entities, urban transport, water utilities and national lotteries.

DG Internal Market and Services: Contracting Authorities bound by EU public procurement rules

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/authorities_en.htm

Contact details of DG Internal Market and Services

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/internal_market/contact_en.htm

Communication on the external dimension of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs

In its Communication COM(2008)874, the Commission reports on a number of significant trade barriers in important existing and future markets for EU exporters. It also identifies the different tools available to ensure a coherent and targeted response. The Commission intends to strengthen regulatory cooperation with key trading partners and focus it on achieving maximum results. A priority region will be the European Neighbourhood.

Communication COM(2008)874

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/december/tradoc_141742.pdf

Communication COM(2008)874 on DG Trade website

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/competitiveness/pr171208_en.htm

Contact details of DG Trade


http://ec.europa.eu/trade/gentools/contact_en.htm

DG Enterprise and Industry: international affairs webpage, including contact details

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/international_relations/index_en.htm

European Action Plan on e-signatures and e-identification adopted

The Commission has adopted the Action Plan on e-signatures and e-identification COM(2008)798 to facilitate the provision of cross-border public services in the Single Market. Public authorities offer more and more public services by electronic means ('e-services'), but the implementation has been focusing very much on national needs and means. This approach creates new 'e-barriers' to cross-border markets and hampers a well-functioning Single Market, as it limits access for enterprises and individuals from other Member States to



those public services. In addition Member States run the risk of not complying with their legal obligations under EU legislation, in particular under specific internal market instruments such as the Services Directive and the Public Procurement Directives.

Action Plan on e-signatures and e-identification (COM(2008)798)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0798:FIN:EN:PDF>

More information and useful links are available on DG Information Society webpage as well as on DG Internal Market and Services web page

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/esignature/

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/strategy/index_en.htm

Contact details of DG Information Society

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/contact/index_en.htm

Contact details of DG Internal Market and Services

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/internal_market/contact_en.htm

On-line survey on external stakeholders' views on the Commission's Enterprise and Industry Policy

The European Commission commissioned GHK out an on-line survey to assess external stakeholders' views on its Enterprise and Industry Policy. The purpose of the survey is to gather opinions and suggestions from European businesses, interest groups and other non-governmental organisations, Member State representatives as well as citizens on:

- how stakeholders perceive the EU's policy objectives, priorities and instruments in the enterprise and industry area, and the effectiveness of its work;
- trends or challenges European citizens or businesses anticipate for the future in the enterprise and industry area on which the Commission should put greater focus; and
- whether and how the Commission should re-focus its objectives, priorities and instruments to address these new trends and challenges and to improve its effectiveness.

The results of the survey will feed in to DG Enterprise and Industry's internal reflections on its policies and organisation for the next European Commission.

Direct link to the on-line questionnaire on GHK's website


<http://www.ghkint.com/surveys/survey08/0/>

MEETINGS, FAIRS & EVENTS

Growing Galileo 2009

Growing Galileo 2009 will focus on the funding opportunities for satellite navigation project proposals available under the European Commission's 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7). A total of €40 million is available through FP7's second call for Galileo and EGNOS research and development projects.

With a focus on the upcoming second round of FP7 calls, Growing Galileo 2009 is an opportunity for participants to network and form partnerships with other organisations. Those



attending will learn about the projects accepted for funding under FP7's first call for proposals, launched in November 2007. Presentations from GNSS industry experts and market leaders will stimulate brainstorming and the exchange of ideas among participants.

When: 27th & 28th January 2009

Where: Brussels

Registration is now open

<http://growinggalileo09.teamwork.fr/>

More information

<http://www.gsa.europa.eu/go/news/growing-galileo-event-preparing-for-fp7-s-second-call>

PUBLICATIONS

SME Update, the Newsletter of DG Research for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

The latest issue of SME Update is now available on-line. Articles concern a broad range of topics focussed on opportunities for SMEs, such as FP7 grants, transnational projects and success stories.

SME Update (Issue 4)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/newsletter/issue4/index_en.html

EU-Japan Centre Newsletter – The December 2008 issue is available

The Newsletter of the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Co-operation reports, amongst other topics, on the first-ever "Japan-EU Regional Cluster Forum", which was held on the 2nd & 3rd December in Yokohama in the context of the "Japan Cluster 2008 Fair", and brought together European and Japanese clusters.

To follow up this inaugural event, the EU-Japan Centre will begin a new helpdesk service for the benefit of European and Japanese clusters, to help them identify potential co-operation partners in the reciprocal regions.

Newsletter and contact details

<http://documents.eu-japan.eu/media/publications/newsletter/december08.pdf>

EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Co-operation

<http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/>



MISCELLANEOUS

The EU Interactive Terminology database can help find EU-specific terms

It is the EU-interinstitutional multilingual term database where you can find EU-specific terminology and jargon, as well as terms from all sorts of areas, such as law, agriculture, information technology and many others. IATE means interactive Terminology for Europe and brings together all the information previously included in the European institutions' former terminology databases, such as EURODICAUTOM from the Commission, EUTERPE from the European Parliament and TIS from the Council.

IATE has 8.4 million terms, including approximately 540.000 abbreviations and 130.000 phrases, and covers all 23 official EU languages. New terms are added every day and the contents are constantly updated.

IATE website, which includes an information brochure available in the EU official languages
<http://iate.europa.eu/iatediff/switchLang.do?success=mainPage&lang=en>

Contact address
iate@cdt.europa.eu

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

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