



Business Support on Your Doorstep

Nr. 7  
30 January 2009

## EU & SERVICES BULLETIN

<b>EU NEWS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Review of VAT invoicing rules contained in the VAT Directive 2006/11/EC .....	2
New study on the VAT invoicing rules contained in the VAT Directive 2006/11/EC .....	2
Greece, Spain, Hungary and Portugal have lifted restrictions on access to their labour markets for Bulgarian and Romanian workers .....	2
Better Regulation .....	3
EU reintroduces export refunds for dairy products.....	3
European Commission adopts new measures to prevent and equip light vehicles .....	4
Two new calls for SMEs searching an access to Research & Development (R&D) .....	4
<b>MEETINGS, FAIRS &amp; EVENTS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Research Connection 2009 - networking our way to a research future – Prague – 7 & 8 May 2009 .....	5
Green Week 2009 – 'Climate Change: Act and Adapt' – Brussels, 23 to 26 June 2009.....	5
<b>TRAINING</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Decentralised training on 'Energy from the sun' – Naples – 26 March 2009.....	6
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Enterprise News e-newsletter .....	6
Weekly 'Energy and Transport Digest' .....	6
Latest issue of the Intelligent Energy News Review on-line.....	7





## EU NEWS

### **Review of VAT invoicing rules contained in the VAT Directive 2006/11/EC**

On 28 January 2009, the European Commission adopted a proposal (COM/2009/21) to change the VAT Directive 2006/112/EC in respect to the invoicing rules, based on a Communication on the technological developments in the field of electronic invoicing. The aim of the proposal is to increase the use of electronic invoicing, reduce burdens on business, support SMEs and help Member States to tackle fraud.

The proposal simplifies, modernises and harmonises the VAT invoicing rules. In particular, it eliminates the current barriers to e-invoicing in the VAT Directive by treating paper and electronic invoices equally. The proposal is a key element of the Commission's Action Programme to reduce burdens on business by 25% by 2012, and is part of the Commission's strategy to combat VAT fraud more efficiently.

European Commission's proposal (COM(2009)21)

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/resources/documents/common/whats\\_new/com\\_2009\\_21\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/common/whats_new/com_2009_21_en.pdf)

DG Taxation and Customs Union, webpage dedicated to VAT invoicing rules

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/taxation/vat/traders/invoicing\\_rules/index\\_en.htm#existingleg](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/vat/traders/invoicing_rules/index_en.htm#existingleg)

### **New study on the VAT invoicing rules contained in the VAT Directive 2006/11/EC**


A Study on the Invoicing Directive (2001/115/EC) now incorporated into the VAT Directive (2006/112/EC) was carried out for the European Commission by PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The report analyses the four principal areas of invoicing, i.e. the requirement to issue an invoice, the content of an invoice, electronic invoicing and the storage of invoices, with a view to mapping the existing legislation in all Member States, analysing burdens on business and Member States' control needs, and providing recommendations for a more harmonised and modern set of VAT invoicing rules.

The study is available online on the website of DG Taxation and Customs Union

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/taxation/vat/traders/invoicing\\_rules/index\\_en.htm#existingleg](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/vat/traders/invoicing_rules/index_en.htm#existingleg)

### **Greece, Spain, Hungary and Portugal have lifted restrictions on access to their labour markets for Bulgarian and Romanian workers**

The four countries join ten other EU Member States which had already opened their labour markets to workers from Bulgaria and Romania, whereas restrictions still remain in eleven Member States. Denmark, which currently imposes some restrictions, has also announced that it will stop applying restrictions for Bulgarian and Romanian workers from 1 May 2009.



All Member States that continue to restrict the labour market access by applying national law can lift these restrictions at any time as of 1 January 2009. In principle, full free movement of workers should apply after 31 December 2011. After that date, Member States can only maintain restrictions if there is a serious negative impact (or threat thereof) on the labour market. All restrictions for workers from Bulgaria and Romania must be lifted by 31 December 2013 at the latest. Then full free movement of workers will apply across the EU-27.

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities  
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=25&langId=en>

### **Better Regulation**

The European Commission has recently tabled the Strategic review on Better Regulation in the European Union, which shows that citizens and companies, in particular SMEs already benefit from simplified measures and administrative costs savings.

So far, the European Commission has simplified and codified the existing acquis of EU legislation in order to reduce it by almost 10%, which means about 1,300 legal acts and 7,800 pages of the EU Official Journal. The final goal of this action is to reduce EU administrative burdens on businesses by 25% in 2012.

Furthermore, the European Commission will apply the principle of better regulation to the production of all new legislation. With respect to this, 33 new initiatives are to be delivered in 2009 and further 81 actions could be incorporated in future simplification activities. Some of the measures to cut the red tape include the strengthening of the subsidiarity check, the improvement of the consultation of stakeholders and a more detailed and upgraded impact assessment.

The European Commission's actions on administrative burdens on businesses have had a good feedback at national level and most Member States have put in place ambitious programmes to reduce red tape. Since the presentation of the European Commission proposal to reduce administrative burdens on businesses the number of Member States which have set similar national reduction targets increased significantly from 7 (2006), to 14 (2007) and 21 (2008).

Press release on Better Regulation

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/131&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **EU reintroduces export refunds for dairy products**

On 23 January 2009, the EU Management Committee for dairy products decided to reintroduce export refunds for certain dairy products (butter, cheese and whole and skimmed milk powder) for the first time since June 2007. The decision was taken in response to the serious situation on the EU dairy market, caused by a recent sharp fall in producer prices. Export refunds can be paid to allow EU exporters to continue to be present on the world market. The EU will, of course, fully respect the limits on subsidised exports set by the World



Trade Organisation and the European Commission will continue to observe market developments and will adjust the refunds accordingly.

DG Agriculture and Rural Development website, news room and contact details  
<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/newsroom/en/322.htm>

DG Agriculture and Rural Development website on export refunds

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/export\\_refunds/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/export_refunds/index_en.htm)

DG Agriculture and Rural Development website, milk and milk products

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/milk/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/milk/index_en.htm)

### **European Commission adopts new measures to prevent and equip light vehicles**

On 23 January 2009, the European Commission adopted a package of measures aimed at detecting and preventing abuses of the digital tachograph, which is used to record the driving time and the rest periods of professional drivers. Furthermore, the new legislation allows the use of dedicated, type-approved adaptors for light vehicles, which are required to comply with the Drivers' Hours and Tachograph rules.

DG Energy and Transport website, road transport session, social provisions rules

[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road/social\\_provisions/social\\_provisions\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road/social_provisions/social_provisions_en.htm)

### **Two new calls for SMEs searching an access to Research & Development (R&D)**

The Commission has launched two calls for proposals in the framework of the ERANET scheme to support the cooperation and coordination of research activities carried out at national or regional level in the Member States and as well as in the Associated States. This means that the funding from the European Commission is only for coordination and that the funding to the SMEs is coming from the participating national programmes.

[7th Joint CORNET call for Transnational Collective Research Project Proposals](#)

CORNET II stands for COLlective Research NETworking. It is a network for information exchange and collaboration between national and regional programmes and schemes for collective research across Europe aimed at SMEs' associations / groups. The closure date for submission of proposals is 30 April 2009.

[5th call for trans-national projects of the EraSME<sup>2</sup> partnership](#)

EraSME<sup>2</sup> strives to strengthen the market position of SMEs in search of access to R&D by establishing a fruitful cooperation with research and technology organisations at international level. The call will be open until 31 March 2009.

For further information on both calls, see

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index\\_en.cfm?pg=news](http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index_en.cfm?pg=news)



## MEETINGS, FAIRS & EVENTS

### **Research Connection 2009 - networking our way to a research future – Prague – 7 & 8 May 2009**

The biggest European research event of the year is organised by the European Commission under the Czech Presidency of the European Union. The two-day conference and exhibition will present the major ongoing research initiatives in the framework of:

- the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) 2007-2013;
- the Structural Funds 2007-2013;
- the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) 2007-2013.

The Enterprise Europe Network, its services and activities will be presented at the conference and the 'Enterprise Europe Network' will have a stand in the exhibition area.

When: 7 – 8 May 2009

Where: Prague

For more information

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2009/rtd-2009/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2009/rtd-2009/index_en.cfm)

### **Green Week 2009 – 'Climate Change: Act and Adapt' – Brussels, 23 to 26 June 2009**

DG Environment is pleased to announce that the 9th edition of the Green Week, the biggest annual conference event on European environment policy, will take place from 23 to 26 June 2009 in Brussels and will focus on in climate change.

The 2009 programme and practical information will be available shortly on the DG Environment website. The Green Week is open to the public and participation is free of charge for all.

The Green Week also has an area for exhibitors. To book a stand, some application guidelines and an application form are already online. Completed applications must be submitted by 2 March 2009.

For more information and contact details visit the website of the Green Week 2009

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/home.html>



## TRAINING

### Decentralised training on 'Energy from the sun' – Naples – 26 March 2009

The registration is open for the Enterprise Europe Network's decentralised training course on solar technology: state of the art, scenarios and opportunities of the market, peculiarities and criticalities of technology transfer in the solar energy sector, case study.

The training is organized by ENEA (BridgeEconomies consortium partner) as host organization, which is the Italian Agency in the Energy field and specialized in Photovoltaic technologies.

Organiser: ENEA

When: 26 March 2009

Where: Mostra D'Oltremare, Kennedy street, Naples – Italy

Contact: Fulvio Miraglia (ENEA, BRIDGEconomies), e-mail: [fulvio.miraglia@portici](mailto:fulvio.miraglia@portici)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Enterprise News e-newsletter

The Enterprise News e-newsletter keeps you up to date on Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry related issues such as reducing administrative burdens, advancing the internal market for goods, improving the competitiveness of industrial sectors, promoting, SMEs, supporting innovation, and encouraging entrepreneurship.

You can subscribe online at: <https://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/intsub/>

Last issue of the Enterprise News e-newsletter

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/newsletterarchivedetail.cfm?day=28&month=1&year=2009&time=15:53&type=daily&userservice\\_id=1002&css=2](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/newsletterarchivedetail.cfm?day=28&month=1&year=2009&time=15:53&type=daily&userservice_id=1002&css=2)

### Weekly 'Energy and Transport Digest'

The Directorate-General for Energy and Transport sends regularly to its subscribers its electronic newsletters called "Energy and Transport Digest". If you like to take advantage of this free service you need just to send an e-mail and ask to be put on the subscribers' mailing list.

To subscribe the newsletter as well as to read the latest issues visit the following website. The service is available only in English.

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy\\_transport/newsletter/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/newsletter/index_en.htm)



**Latest issue of the Intelligent Energy News Review on-line**

The 2009 first issue of the Intelligent News Review has been just published. The articles give good pieces of information about the initiatives and events related to the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme, such as the coming EU Sustainable Energy Week 2009, energy efficiency in buildings and industry and different actions in the field of sustainable energy

Intelligent News Review (February 2009)

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/library/doc/ienr\\_4\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/library/doc/ienr_4_en.pdf)

Intelligent Energy Europe webpage

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html)

\*\*\*\*

---

For any comment about this document, please post your message in the "Business Services" Conference on FirstClass.

The EACI endeavours to guarantee that the information it distributes is exact and consistent with the information available to it but it does not guarantee the accuracy or validity of that information. The information is provided uniquely for the purposes of information and does not constitute a legal or professional opinion. The advice and opinions expressed above do not represent the advice or opinions of the European Commission and do not incur any responsibility on its part.