



INTERNATIONALE KOMMISSION DER DETEKTIV- VERBÄNDE



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF PRIVATE DETECTIVES

An article from the Secretary General

Common Minimum Standard

The IKD hosts, as an umbrella body, 24 organisations, representing 19 different countries plus the World Association of Detectives, with 2 further national associations and another worldwide body having applications to join under consideration. The IKD is unchallenged in its representative capacity.

With such formidable influence the IKD has now moved forward with the project to establish a Common Minimum Standard for Investigations in the Private Sector (CMS) in the European Union.

On 05th October 2007, some 200 + investigators convened in Zaragoza, Spain to further the CMS debate. The Conference was hosted by the Spanish national association, APDPE. The day was dedicated to the IKD CMS project; however, it was open to all investigators in the private sector and included other stakeholder representations, with wide media interest including Aragon TV, Radio and all 8 provincial newspapers following a pre-event press conference.

Two prominent Judges gave presentations and the international senior judge, Professor Dr. Ernst Markel, gave a talk specifically aimed at Private Investigators and the CMS. His full speech is available to download from http://i-k-d.com/downloads/IKD/Reflections_on_Private_Investigation_by_Dr._Ernst_Markel.pdf

Dr. Markel raised some very pertinent issues but was overall supportive of the IKD CMS initiative. His remarks have an interesting bearing on national authorities currently reviewing the regulation of investigations in the private sector and the transcript of his speech has therefore been submitted to the UK Security Industry Authority for consideration in its present consultation process.

The CMS Committee, David Sanmartin (from Spain), George Hirtl (from Austria), and Laura Giuliani (from Italy) each gave a detailed presentation on the history and content of the CMS.

Each IKD member organisation was invited to address the meeting and many did. Everyone present was given the opportunity to raise questions, through the committee, by proxy or by directly addressing the Conference. Each submission was read out to the delegates. Some very interesting points were raised and taken on board by the CMS Committee resulting in an historical agreement on the final CMS version, which has now been published and is also available to download from

http://i-k-d.com/downloads/IKD/IKD_Common_Minimum_Standard_Final_Version_V.pdf

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The amended CMS, which included minor amendments to the last draft, the earlier agreed Definition and the Code of Ethics, was signed by the IKD organisations represented, as evidence of unity and conviction to the project.

In brief, the CMS is designed to explore a tolerable level of standards to recommend as applicable to each EU member state for investigations in the private sector when considering : -

- a. Implementing regulation
- b. Reviewing existing regulation
- c. Cross border activity

The IKD CMS suggests: -

- a. Personal requirements – 18 years of age and of sound mind
- b. Probity – clear of current criminal record as listed in CMS
- c. Competence – 80 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)
- d. Professional indemnity – minimum €100,000 cover
- e. Code of ethics – prevailing in the IKD

One of the potential difficulties was the recommendation to compel Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII), it having been suggested in May 2007 at the Bayreuth, Germany IKD meeting, that PII may not be available in all participating nations. This has been resolved by the IKD having secured a reasonable proposal by London based Underwriters for a PII policy for the IKD affiliated membership. Details of the policy and brokers are available from the IKD secretary general.

It is interesting that the CMS project has attracted the interest and support of a much wider geographical audience within the investigation sector. This reflects in the existing and pending IKD membership. The IKD will continue to strive for the common interests of all investigators who, through their national associations, are encouraged to participate in this IKD initiative.

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