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NEWSLETTER

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Introduction

Hello from the team at the [UK Single Market Centre \(UKSMC\)](#). Welcome to the fifth edition of our Newsletter and do please forward it on to your contacts and networks that have an interest in ensuring an effective Single Market.

IMI and PSC – Checking for Compliance



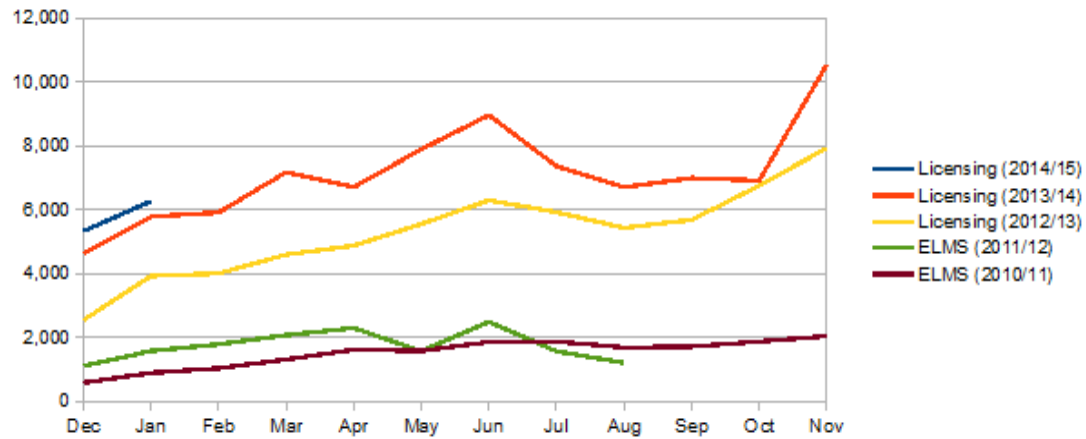
The number of local and other competent authorities registered on IMI has increased this quarter by 17 (3.4%). This increase follows on from the compliance audit that we started last year. We are checking whether UK authorities are meeting their legal obligations under the Provision of Services Regulations 2009, which implemented the EU Services Directive within the UK. In future, these checks will continue as part of our routine house-keeping but we would like to thank all those authorities that have responded so far with up to date contacts for IMI and have confirmed that they are now taking action to address any outstanding compliance issues as soon as possible.

It's worth noting that all local and other competent authorities must ensure that:

- all forms for authorisations (licences, permits, notifications etc.) that are covered by the 2009 Regulations are available through the UK's [Point of Single Contact \(PSC\)](#) and can be completed online, including paying any fees;
- certain minimum information is available on their own websites, including: fees, time taken to process an application, whether tacit consent applies, the redress process and contact information; and
- they display the [EUGO](#) logo and provide a link back to the PSC on all the relevant pages.

The Commission organised an EU-wide Peer Review of PSCs in Brussels on 21 and 22 January. This involved live testing of each country's PSC against agreed scenarios together with a "mystery shopping" exercise by businesses. Initial results will be presented at the next EUGO meeting in Brussels on 10th March and we are hoping that the UK will maintain its reputation as being one of the best PSCs in the network. As you will see in the following graph, it's encouraging to see that the use of the UK's online licensing system continues to show year on year growth.

Online Licensing – table showing the number of forms downloaded:



Latest on SOLVIT



The last quarter of 2014 saw us increasing our promotional activities. This involved travelling with State Aid colleagues to talk about what we do and our ambitions for the UKSMC. In addition, we attended several of the Explore Export events organised by UK Trade and Invest (UKTI), which provided good opportunities to tell businesses about the help and support that the UKSMC offers. One of the positive messages we took away from these events is that there are a lot of businesses that are already doing very well in Europe and were attending in order to follow up their initial success and expand further. In November 2014, we managed to attend the London and Birmingham Explore Export events and, as these are annual events that cover the whole of the UK, we hope to participate at other locations in 2015.

We hosted a study visit by Bulgarian officials, to talk about why and how we set up the UKSMC, to share lessons learnt and best practice. We were also visited by the British Consul based in Madrid, to help them identify how the UKSMC could help support the many UK citizens who visit or live in Spain.

Following on from our various promotional activities, we are now dealing with a number of new business cases concerning difficulties they've come across when trying to access other European markets. These include an enquiry from a UK Authority that is seeking recognition of their standard in another European country, and a request about Turkish product requirements and licensing that we were able to handle because, by bringing all of the Single Market tools together, we have now acquired contact details of the relevant Turkish officials.

Technical Regulations Directive 98/34/EC latest



In the last 3 months of 2014, 177 notifications were submitted to the Commission, 18 of which were from the UK. During the same period in 2013, 151 notifications were submitted of which 8 were from the UK. We have circulated 159 notifications from other EU countries to our contacts in BIS and other Government Departments for them to consider.

The UK did not submit any detailed opinions, but did submit 3 Comments on:

- Technical regulation for the description, production and commercial presentation of alcoholic cocktails (Lithuania)
- Technical regulation for the description, production and commercial presentation of fermented alcoholic drink mixes and of fermented alcoholic drinks mixes containing non-alcoholic drinks (Lithuania)
- Draft decree laying down rules for packaging and packaging waste (2014 Packaging Management Decree) (Netherlands)

We also received 11 detailed opinions relating to one UK notification, the Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Product Regulations, 2014/0427/UK, which was submitted by the Department of Health. DoH is now considering these objections and will respond in due course. In December 2014, the UK notified the Single Use Carrier Bags Charges (England) Order 2015, 2014/0638/UK, where the 5p charge for carrier bags will come into force later this year.

We are now in the process of updating our guidance for officials together with the diagnostic tool, which we hope to issue shortly.

Notifications can be found on the European Commission's, Technical Regulations Information System (TRIS) website: <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/tris/en/>

Single Market Scoreboard latest



The results of the Winter 2014 Single Market Scoreboard are due to be published at the end of February and we will let you know the results in our next Newsletter.

However, looking ahead to the Summer 2015 Scoreboard that covers Internal Market Directives with a transposition deadline of 30 April 2015, the UK currently has a transposition deficit score of 1.3% and 17 Directives outstanding. So, in order to meet the 1% target, the UK must transpose and notify 5 more

Directives and we are now working with our contacts within Government Departments to ensure we achieve this.

Our next Newsletter will be issued in Summer 2015. If you would like to suggest or contribute an article, please contact Herbee Thomas herbee.thomas@bis.gsi.gov.uk We would also welcome feedback on any of the items mentioned in this newsletter. As always, please feel free to pass this on to any colleagues and contacts that have an interest in making the Single Market work in practice for UK citizens, consumers and businesses!

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