

I recently attended the AGM of the Spanish Detective association held in Zaragoza, Spain between 4 - 7 October.

At the same venue was the AGM of the IKD. "Internationale Kommission der Detektiv-Verbände" (International of Associations of Private Detectives) (IKD) is an Umbrella Body consisting of Associations of Private and Security Practitioners throughout the world.

The Federation has its seat in Vienna, Austria and invites membership from National Professional organizations or representatives.

The IKD is focused on maintaining the highest of standards, meeting its code of ethics and promoting harmonization of regulations and process, particularly within the European Union.

The main subject under review was the licensing throughout the EU for the private Investigation Industry. As you are aware the EU is made up of many sovereign states. Not all these countries have licensing for and of the ones that do, the requirements vary considerably.

Licensing is going to be introduced in the United Kingdom next year will be maintained by the Security Industry Authority, (SIA)

It is anticipated that the EU will introduce licensing throughout the of the EU. Under EU regulations if a person is licensed in one they can operate in any other EU state.

The problem this has causing is that the qualifications vary from state to state. In you have to have a three year University Degree to become a Private Detective. Where in some other states you just get licensed.

What the IKD are trying to achieve is a Common Minimum Standard (CMS) throughout the EU that will be accepted by the powers that be. This give a standard qualification for all investigators throughout EU. Single states can if they wish increase the standards within jurisdictions.

THE IKD are proposing the following for the CMS:

Aged 18 or more and of sound mind. Fit and Proper. (Clean criminal record) Education 80 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) In the following: Law, Criminology, Civil, Privacy, Methodology. There will be an exam and to conform to a code of ethics. For a full explanation go to [www.I-K-D.com](http://www.I-K-D.com)

In the United Kingdom licensing is expected to be announced before this year with full implementation by 2010. It is subject all investigators having to take an exam and do 30 hours of before the exam. There will not to be any Grandfather rights. is anticipated that the course will cover such things as, Privacy, Police and Criminal Evidence, Freedom of Information, European Rights and other subjects covering powers of arrest, interviewing and court procedures. The final decision of has not yet been taken.

Because of the 'No Grandfather rights' some Investigators in the UK are already questioning why they, after possibly 30 years in the business, have to now take exams to prove their competence and should just be awarded their licenses.

If the SIA push this through some investigators, on their own or working as a consortium could be looking to take the British Government to the European Court for de-franchising them from their livelihood.

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