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There are 10 different Europark -
Facts publications. Each
provides you with specific
information on a certain topic
involving the Europark
international industrial estate
located between Coevorden and
Emlichheim. The *EuroparkFacts*
are factual and to-the-point. A
list of these publications is
provided on the back page.

Across borders

Organizations and projects, that support border-crossing businesses



The Europark is a large industrial estate on the Dutch-German border located between Coevorden (NL) and Emlichheim (D). The location and logistics facilities are Europark's strong points. In this EuroparkFact you read about what the Europark is doing to remove the border barriers for entrepreneurs.

Border-crossing business

Everyone who passes the office building of Europark Coevorden-Emlichheim GmbH on the Dutch-German border, is unaffected by border controls, a thing of the past. But the reality is, that this border can still cause legal and administrative problems. Think about the differences in taxes, insurances, legal requirements etc. For companies that really want to do cross-border business on the Europark this can be very problematic. Additional efforts have to be made, for example in the employment of staff from across the border or to build directly on the border. Of course, a company can decide to stay on one side of the border, and there would be many arguments in favor of the location: position, the unique logistics facilities, the size of the lots, the favorable land price etc. But the Europark would like to offer more to the entrepreneur: the best from two countries without problems. In order to reach that position there are many studies to be carried out and advice to be taken. Amongst others, to obtain agreements between the provincial governments concerning laws and norms and with the social partners of both countries to settle questions concerning industrial law.

The Europark GmbH and the municipalities of Coevorden and Emlichheim work hard on these cross border differences. They have instructed a team of specialists to solve this problem: the parity council Europark Coevorden-Emlichheim.

Parity council Europark

The task of the parity council is to take care of the problems with which the entrepreneurs can be confronted. The parity council makes an inventory, investigates and consults the responsible authorities.

The parity council for the Europark consists of:

- H.W. Schwarz, Landkreis Grafschaft Bentheim
- F.J. Sickelmann, Regierungsvertretung Oldenburg
- A. Duling, Samtgemeinde Emlichheim
- H. Caspers, Provinz Drenthe
- J. Buurman, Gemeinde Coevorden
- H. Meijer, Gemeinde Coevorden

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Postbus 2, 7740 AA Coevorden, tel. 0049 (0) 5947-99 01 90
email: oortmann@eu-park.de

EUROPARK COEVORDEN- EMLICHHEIM

Taking business beyond borders

- Junction of rail, road and water
- Extremely large lots available
- Industrial harbour and container terminal
- Train connections to various European destinations

Explanation of Aachen

On the 7 December 2000 the German and Dutch governments and the federal states of Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia, signed a protocol. In this so called "Explanation of Aachen", they promise transnational development to promote industrial communities, and to eliminate obstacles to transnational business. In addition they undertake to take appropriate legal and administrative measures.

Which border barriers are still there ?

During the marking of a transnational development road in the Europark, the German and Dutch land surveyors stated that their measuring methods differ: generally speaking in the larger Germany, allowance is made for the curvature of the earth, in the smaller Netherlands it is not. This causes problems with connections with cables, lines, roads, etc. In this example of border problems, the problems are solved in a practical and simple way. But there are several difficult questions, problematical to the entrepreneur, due to the differences in the laws and procedures of the two countries and especially if he wants to be active on both sides of the border. Examples include:

- ✓ Construction and environmental authorizations
- ✓ Fiscal regulations
- ✓ Energy supply
- ✓ Work place related issues such as accident insurance, safety regulations and collective agreements.
- ✓ Use of tax privileged red diesel
- ✓ Delivery and removal of animal proteins, related to veterinarian epidemic diseases (incl for food and feed industry)
- ✓ Groundwater use
- ✓ Removal of company waste
- ✓ Investment conveyance
- ✓ Insurances

Personnel from the other side of the border

Within the EC, it is agreed that (specialized) diplomas and certificates are mutually acknowledged. However, the social security of transnational personnel, is more complicated. The European Union regulated the liberality of employees in regulation (EEC) No. 1408/71 of the advice of 14 June 1971 (Official Journal No. L 149 of 05 July 1971) and made with it concomitantly regulations regarding social security. The European Court of Justice has issued clarifying judgements on the question of the liberality of employees within the union and on social security questions. An important starting point is that a "border crosser" can make use of the social insurance in his/her homeland.

FREE ADVICE DAY

The Europark GmbH offers entrepreneurs who think about to settle down in the Europark a free consultation (of max. 8 h) from an expert advice office in the field "border crossing company". This can be in the legal, tax and/or insurance-or approval-technical sector.

Information

As entrepreneur to whom can you address questions of international business? Unfortunately, there is still no central coordinating information centre to cater for all questions, but there are organizations like Europark GmbH, which can help you through the jungle of rules and subsidies. Here is a short list:

EDR and Euregio ...

co-operation associations between German and Dutch communities, provinces, rural districts and industry, chambers of commerce. They support international activities on the German Dutch border area. They act in an advisory capacity and advise on other sources of promotion. The EDR has its office at Nieuweschans (NL) and Bunde (D), Tel. 0031 (0)597 521818, www.edr.org.

'Grensinfopunt'

is a cooperation of the Dutch ministries and supplies information about transnational questions connected with employment and business; (social) insurances and taxes to pension and employment. Tel.: 0031 (0)800-0220145. www.Grensinfopunt.nl.

Customs

Customs about border questions. In the Coevorden-Emlichheim region, the customs authorities of Germany and Holland are accessible by telephone on 0031 (0)524 596400 and 0049 (0) 5947 268.

Manual

A contact brochure is available from Europark GmbH, listing German Dutch trade contacts – a handy reference guide full of tips and addresses. Social, legal, fiscal and cultural information are listed in the manual.

Network of Dutch-German entrepreneurs

(*Verband Niederländisch-Deutscher Unternehmer (VNDU)*) This German-Dutch network has the aim to support the border crossing co-operation between companies. The VNDU does that by organising so called network-meetings, exchange of experiences and support companies by commercial operations in the neighbouring country.

You can ask several law firms and tax advisors offices about border crossing work. Here, a few specialized offices:

Anwaltskanzlei Strick

Postfach 1261, D-47517 Kleve
T: +49 (0) 2821 7222-0
I: www.strick.de

Holland Business House

Hauptstraße 1, D-48529 Nordhorn
T: +49 (0) 5921 305161
I: www.hollandbusinesshouse.nl

Countus

Dokter van Deenweg 40, NL-8025 BB Zwolle
T: +31 (0) 38 455 2600
I: www.countus.nl

GermanBusinessHouse

Bisschop Balderikstraat 3, NL-7575 AJ Oldenzaal
T: +31 (0) 541 531 147
I: www.germanbusinesshouse.nl

CONTACT AND INFORMATION

Europark Coevorden-Emlichheim Entwicklungsgesellschaft
Coevordener Straße 35, D - 49824 Laar
Postbus 89, NL - 7740 AB Coevorden
Tel. / Fax: 0049 (0) 5947 990190 / ... 990192
info@eu-park.com

Contact: D. Lindschulte and H. Oortmann

Please ask for EuroparkNewsMail (monthly by email) or one of the Europark *facts*

- Nr. 1 The Europark-Concept
- Nr. 2 The Organization
- Nr. 3 Strategy, development and planning
- Nr. 4 Logistic services
- Nr. 5 The Europark & Europe: the removal of border barriers
- Nr. 6 Subsidies for businesses
- Nr. 7 Zoning plan, building and environmental codes
- Nr. 8 Lots, prices and procedures
- Nr. 9 Social-economic facts about the region
- Nr. 10 The partners and companies of Europark