

From July 1st – freedom for cucumbers



Since July 1st, this year, whole list of regulations and rules of the European Union starts to inure or stops to be valid. One of the most popular and most absurd regulations of Brussels becomes invalid as well: cucumbers may be snagged again.

No matter how hard the villagers were trying to find a way to explain that the cucumbers grow the way Brussels wants, there is actually an old regulation, which is a result of the efforts of the European traders: flat cucumbers are easier to put on shelves, are more easily to pack and transport – and finally, buyers prefer to buy them. The result was that this vegetable gets into the European grocery stores only from the plantation breeding – because "natural" cucumbers simply do not want to grow only in one direction. And if one agriculturist has planted a cucumber in his/her garden, just because of the European regulation, they could not have received a price for the "superior quality". Abolishment of this regulation is an effort for Europe to go back to "old times": that the villagers themselves offer their products on market – and

that they are able to get a good price for their products.

It could be said that the last nail for a coffin of the "Cucumber regulation" has come from the East. In the "new" countries of Europe, cucumber is one of the most wanted vegetable – but they are snagged in those countries and are being bought like that. And today is not only a day when the cucumber regulation has fallen down: there is also an inuring a rule on how much of white and how much of green can be seen on a leek, and there are also the carrots, which can grow the way they want. Shortly: Brussels will no longer rule the shape and dimensions for asparagus, squashes, egg-plants, artichokes, avocados, green beans, green peas, different kinds of loafs, mushrooms, onion, celery, spinach, apricots, cherries, plums, melons, walnuts and hazelnuts. But, however, the European regulations on how apples, pears, different citrus fruits, kiwi, strawberries, peaches, nectarines, grapes, green salad, pepper and tomato should look like, still remains valid. (Source: *Deutsche Welle*)

EU: "Each day in every way it improves itself"



"Where are you calling from? Are you normal, do you know how much does it cost?"

The first of July is not only a day, when the "Rule on cucumbers" stops, but a regulation on mobile telephone

lines in the European Union inures as well. To make a long story short: the times when telecommunications have been expected to reduce their prices, due to competitiveness, have passed.

All calls and appeals have not brought anywhere: prices for a minute of conversation or for an SMS from Spain to Germany have sometimes been a product of fantasy of telecommunication companies. Today is the end of it: minute of conversation by calling from abroad may maximally cost 39 cents, while received call – price for so called "roaming" can be maximally 15 cents paid. This price will in a year also be reduced by 4 cents.

One more regulation: mobile phones may no longer be able to make an emergency call (112) from today, without a card of user on the phone or without the user registration. However, it was meant for the citizens to be able to make an emergency call from each telephone – but the experience has shown that there are too many misuses, in which there is no practical way to punish the violators.

(Source: Deutsche Welle)

100 watt bulbs abolished

Prohibition of producing and selling the 100 watt bulbs inures in the countries of the EU from the first of September. Instead of them, consumers will be able to choose the saving bulbs, which spend from 25 to 50 % less of energy.

The HRT has informed that the agreement on removing the

traditional bulbs has been reached in December, and it will be implemented in several phases. The first ones at target are the bulbs of 100 watt, which will no longer be possible to buy. Next year, the 75 watt bulbs will be the next ones, and



all traditional bulbs should become a past in the EU by September 1st, 2012.

Saving bulbs are a part of the EU packet for combat against climate changes. Replacement of bulbs is expected to reduce the annual emissions of carbon dioxide, while it has been calculated that by 2020 their replacement will save as much as whole Belgium spends. Savings for the households should reach the amount of 160 Euros per year.

By considering the fact that saving bulbs cause some health problems by some people, consumer associations demand the possibility for those to buy a classic bulb. Germans, as it seems, do not like the concept of saving bulbs, so in the last couple of days they have emptied the stores and ensured reserves of classic bulbs for their households.

(Source: tportal)

EU abolishes the table wine



New guidelines of the EU on wine etiquettes has been inuring since August 1st. Etiquettes should become "clearer and simpler". But, nothing related to good wine can be that simple.

Currently, harvest grape for 2009 is still ripening, but what will actually be written on the wine bottles of wine produced out of it? This question currently burdens the wine producers in the EU, because right after this harvest, the newest EU guidelines on wine etiquettes will have to be applied. One thing is sure: there is no longer a table wine. The wine, which was cheap and officially called a table wine, will have to bear some more noble title. The type of grape-wine and the age of it can now be printed on the stickers of cheap bottles.

In Germany, this example will look like this: "Deutscher Wein - Riesling 2009". This really sounds better than the simple "Table - white". The German wine-producers, who deal with the production of qualitative wine, are worried by the fact that each "Southern European" could use this chance and sell the cheap wine better with the titles of protected grape-wines. But, Germans have

always been fighting to protect their traditional etiquettes, as are the qualitative wine from Germany, and those titles they will be able to use in future.

Once they do not compete, then the European wine producers are jointly irritated by the wine arrived from the cross-ocean countries. But, it seems that there is not much help in it. That wine gets better and better and their price is much more convenient than the wine produced in Europe. Simon Michel-Berger from the European association of countrymen Copa Cogeca in Brussels says: "Power we have in Europe lays in our diversity. We have many different kinds of wine, which represent a huge potential at the international market. In contrary to wine, which comes from the New World, Chile, California and etc., which is not bad, but still cannot offer that deepness and diversity as the one from the European Union".

But, it is hard to say that the reform will help the wine buyers not to get confused. New markings and shortcuts are being imposed, as are "marking of origin protected", or "geographic data protected". If this will really help the European wine-producers in their combat against the Californian or the South-African wine, remains unclear. The EU Commissioner, MaryAnn Fischer-Boel however speaks of "the breaking period for our history of wine production". She says that there have been too many kinds of wine on market, for a long time. Even one year ago the fundamentals of this wine reform have been set. Wine, to which the taste of barrel is being added artificially, comes from the US, while

in the South-African Republic they mix red and white wine, in order to get the pink colored wine, which is forbidden in Europe.

Europeans wants to protect themselves from such methods. Wine, which is being produced now, will be possible to have the etiquettes in an old way, but the harvest 2009 will have to stick up to the new rules.

(Source: Deutsche Welle)

Skype monitored by Big Brother



The Eurojust, the European Union authority for jurisdiction cooperation, has announced that it wants all the employees of the European police services to receive a right to listen to the conversations of suspicious persons, who use the internet telephone system (like Skype), has been announced by the Europe Agency.

"Purpose of coordination role of the Eurojust is to overcome technical and judicial barricades, which exist by overhearing the internet telephone conversations, by considering different rights on protection of data and regulations on human rights", has been said by

Eurojust.

The demand to monitor the internet telephone conversations the Eurojust has explained by the fact that the "possibility of overhearing the internet telephone conversations will be a key weapon in combat against the internationally organized crime inside Europe and abroad".

Be careful who you write to



By recommendation of the secret service, the Polish post plans to supply itself with devices for classification, which not only that scan the addresses from shipments, but are also able to uncover the sender through graphology methods. Polish associations for protection of human rights are shocked by this announcement. Tender for procurement of the machine has been announced in May 2009, and the post plans to allocate 66 million Euros for it. Experts claim that the idea on scanning and archiving of addresses is controversial because it represents the violation of human rights and the Polish Constitution. 'Data on the envelope relates to the

confidentiality of writing, and the Polish post represents the institution of public trust', has been said by secretary of the Helsinki's association for human rights, Adam Bondar.

The former deputy director of the ABW, Mieczyslaw Tarnowski has refused the claims that scanning and archiving of addresses is against the law.

Scanning of envelopes does not violate the confidentiality of writing, because archiving of data of receiver and sender can compare to data on telephone bill, Tarnowski has said.

(Source: Henna/portal)