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Council of Ministers of October 23, 2008

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At the end of the Council of Ministers, Interior Minister Patrick Dewael explained the decision taken by the Council regarding the formation of 33 rescue zones for firefighters. He also added that an additional 10 million euros have been provided for in the 2009 budget for the reform of civil security.

The Minister of Public Health then discussed the government's decision to adopt a new, so-called "two-track" system for the compensation of damage related to health care. This system should come into force in the course of 2009. The "two-track" system consists of the combination of the intervention of a fund with the possibility of legal recourse.

Finance Minister Didier Reynders announced that the Council of Ministers has mandated the Federal Participation and Investment Company (SFPI) to grant a loan of 500 million euros with state guarantee to Ethias. He also pinned the decision to extend the protection of deposits to 100,000 euros to insurance products. The government's objective is to offer such a guarantee to products comparable to banking products as well as to cooperative societies. Didier Reynders then announced the decision taken concerning the fixing of the cost price of the service of 12 taxes taken over by the Regions.

The prime minister said the government is considering inserting an article in the companies code that would limit such allowances. The Minister of Justice must table a project to this

effect at the Council of Ministers on November 7. Then, Yves Leterme spoke about the meeting of the Council of Ministers with Phillipe Maystadt, President of the European Investment Bank, on the occasion of an exchange of ideas on the lines of action to be undertaken in the months to come. , in the context of the current financial crisis. The Prime Minister also announced that a meeting would be held on November 5 between the federal government and the Regions to discuss the financial and economic consequences of the crisis. The meeting will be based on the BNB's estimates about the impact of the crisis as well as the average political and economic tools available at European, federal and regional levels. On this basis, common action to be taken in the face of the financial crisis should emerge.

Interfederal Finance Inspectorate

Determination of the jobs of the agents of the Interfederal Body of the Inspectorate of Finances who constitute the same level of hierarchy

Budget 2009

Decisions relating to the 2009 budget

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Appointment of members to the SNCB group mediation service

Transfer of ownership

Transfer of ownership of Burg-Reuland Castle from the State to the German-speaking Community

Financial measures

Deposit protection

Civil servant career

Classification of the functions of the members of the personnel of the federal administration of level A

Energy-saving investments

Distribution of credits for energy-saving investments in SPFs - Preparation of the new operation of Fedesco

Law on therapeutic hazards

Nouvelle orientation de la loi sur les aléas thérapeutiques : une procédure d'indemnisation plus souple et plus rapide

Diplomatie préventive

Financement d'initiatives en matière de diplomatie préventive

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Lancement de marchés publics pour la police intégrée structurée à deux niveaux

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Délimitation des zones de secours pour la sécurité civile

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Modification des statuts du Fonds monétaire international

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