

PROGRAMME

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY ACTION ON WORKERS' MOBILITY

“Seeing the wood for the trees after the Year of Workers' Mobility”

Date : 16 March 2007

Venue : Résidence Palace, Polak Room, 155 rue de la Loi, Brussels

Chairpersons: Mario Monti, ECAS Chairman,
Vanessa Turner, ECAS Board member, partner at
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

9.00 a.m. Welcome coffee and registration

9.30 a.m. **OPENING SESSION**
Introduction by the Chairman on the aims and themes of the seminar

10.00 a.m. The main achievements of the Year of Workers' Mobility and prospects for the Mobility Action Plan

Speakers: Jérôme Vignôn, Director, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Jean Lambert, Member of European Parliament (Greens)
Jan Kułakowski, Member of European Parliament (ALDE)
Ewa Sadowska, Secretary of the Board, Barka Foundation for Mutual Help, Poland

Questions and discussion

10.45 a.m. **Agent Provocateur:** Alfonso Mattera, Special Adviser to the Vice-President of the European Commission, Franco Frattini, Academic Director of the European College of Parma, Professor at College of Europe, Bruges and LUISS University, Rome
"Cives europæi sumus ?"

Questions and discussion

11.30 a.m. Coffee break

11.45 a.m. **PANEL I: THE CITIZENS' PERSPECTIVE ON WORKERS' MOBILITY**

Speakers: Stefano Brazzoduro, member of ECAS Citizens' Panel
Laurent Eliazewicz, Project Manager, National Agency for Employment, France
Jimmy Jamar, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Dan Vale, Head of Social Policy, Citizens Advice, England & Wales, Citizens Advice International (CAI)

Questions and discussion

Questions for debate:

- What do opinion polls and other research tell us about citizens' interest in mobility, and their real willingness to move to another country?
- Is there a need for a single source of information agreed between the Commission and Member States?
- How to get information to people on the move, rather than expect them to find the information?
- How can information, advice and problem solving services (i.e. Europe Direct, Citizen Signpost Service (CSS), Eures, EUlisses Solvit) can be organized in the cascade system?
- What can be done to prevent problems by pre-departure information and advice, efforts at integration in the host country and preparation for return?
- How to encourage a wider and more informed public debate about migration in an enlarged Union?

1.00 p.m. **Lunch Break**

3.00 p.m. **Presentation of ECAS latest report on impact of the 2007 enlargement on free movement of persons**

Speakers: Tony Venables, Director, ECAS
Dorian Filote, Executive Director, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, Romania
Rozalina Petrova, Third Secretary, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria

Questions and discussion

3.30 p.m. **PANEL II: THE ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE**

Speakers: Thomas Laursen, Lead Economist for Central Europe, World Bank
Radek Maly, Member of Commission staff, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Tom Vandenbrande, researcher, Higher Institute of Labour Studies, K.U. Leuven
Jakob von Weizsäcker, Research Fellow, Bruegel think-tank

Questions and discussion

Questions for debate:

- What has been the impact of enlargement including the 2007 entry of Bulgaria and Romania on intra-EU mobility?
- Is labour migration a win-win situation?
- What are the different economic approaches?
- How to tackle discrimination and exploitative practices?
- Is there complementarity or rather competition in the market due to labour migration?
- How can intra-EU migration become part of regional policy?
- Can the migration support networks be created in the framework of the “Regions for Economic Change” initiative?

4.30 p.m. Coffee break

4.45 p.m. **PANEL III: THE REGULATORY PERSPECTIVE**

Speakers: Marian Grubben, Solvit Team Leader, DG Internal Market and Services
Dimitrios Kontizas, Head of sector, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Rodolphe Munoz, lecturer, University of Liège, Institute of Political Studies, Lille
Herwig Verschueren, Professor of International and European Social Law, University of Antwerp - Free University of Brussels

Questions and discussion

Questions for debate:

- How to reduce the gap between legal principles and practice?
- How to strengthen problem solving and access to European justice, to make it quicker and more effective?
- Is there a need for a new high-level cross cutting group to examine the regulatory framework and better enforcement?

5.45 p.m. **FINAL SESSION**

Conclusions

Discussion of possible recommendations

6.30 p.m. Conference closes