



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Employment strategy and European Social Fund policy development and coordination  
**Employment services**

Brussels, 22 December 2005  
D(2005)

**EUROPEAN YEAR OF WORKERS' MOBILITY :**

**LAUNCH CONFERENCE**

**"WORKERS' MOBILITY : A RIGHT, AN OPTION, AN OPPORTUNITY ? "**

**Brussels, 20-21 February 2006**

**Introduction**

In the framework of the revised Lisbon objectives, and the forthcoming discussions on the transitional measures on the free movement of workers, the Commission has decided to designate 2006 as the European Year of Workers' Mobility. The Year will offer a wide platform to enhance the awareness of citizens about the rights, costs and opportunities of workers' mobility in the EU. The Launch Conference, which will take place on 20 and 21 February 2006 in the Charlemagne Building in Brussels, will be one of the key events of the Year.

In order to emphasise the current focus on mobility at Commission and Member State level, the launch will provide a unique occasion to discuss the role and impact of mobility in the framework of the Lisbon objectives. The theme will set the tone for discussions and pilot actions throughout the Year.

The event will also provide the occasion to officially launch the new EURES platform for EU job vacancies, which will provide European citizens direct access to all job vacancies published by the Public Employment Services, namely around 1 million job offers at any given time.

The conference will attract 450 participants from public authorities, social partners, businesses, academia and the media.

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# " Workers' Mobility : a right, an option, an opportunity ? "

International conference  
on the occasion of the launch of the

European Year of Workers' Mobility

Brussels, Charlemagne Building, 20-21 February 2006

## Preliminary programme

### Monday 20 February

- 14.00 Registration  
Welcome coffee & Snacks
- 14.30 **"Mobility, a tool for more and better jobs"**
- Addresses by :
- \* José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission
  - \* Martin Bartenstein, Austrian Minister for Economy and Employment
  - \* Josep Borrell Fontelles, President of the European Parliament
  - \* Jeremy Rifkin, President of the Foundation for Economic Trends
  - \* Vladimir Spidla, European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs
- 15.45 **Official opening proclamation of the 2006 European Year of Workers' Mobility**, by President José Manuel Barroso and Commissioner Vladimir Spidla
- 15.50 **Official launch of the new EURES platform for EU job vacancies**, by President José Manuel Barroso and Commissioner Vladimir Spidla
- 16.00 Coffee break  
Opening of the exhibition  
Press conference
- 16.30 **"Free movement and the functioning of transitional measures"**, roundtable, chaired by Commissioner Vladimir Spidla, with the participation of :
- \* Philippe de Buck, Secretary General of UNICE
  - \* Ursula Haubner, Austrian Minister for Social Security and Generations
  - \* Jean Lambert (Mrs), Vice-Chair of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, European Parliament
  - \* John Monks, Secretary General of ETUC

\* Mario Monti, University of Bocconi, Chairman of ECAS

Rapporteur : Anna Hudzieczek, Department for Works and Pensions,  
UK Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs

Discussion

18.00 End

20.00 **Official Dinner**

Invited speakers :

- Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister of Luxembourg
- Umberto Eco, Professor, University of Bologna

### Tuesday 21 February

9.30-12.30 **"The mobility challenge in practice"**

Parallel workshops

1. **Instilling a mobility culture for workers: the social partner's perspective :**

- \* Jorma Karpinnen, Director, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Dublin (chair)
- \* Harrie Bijen, General Secretary EFBWW (European Federation of Building and Woodworkers)
- \* Austin Birks, Senior Manager, Recruitment Strategy, FirstGroup, Aberdeen
- \* NN, Eurocommerce
- \* Carlo Parietti, President of Eurocadres

2. **Geographical mobility, a tool for competitiveness and job creation**

- \* Thomas Straubhaar, President, Hamburg Institute of International Economics (chair)
- \* Monique Chalude, Director, MC2 SCRL, Brussels
- \* Laurent Eliazewicz, Equipe Placement International, ANPE, Paris
- \* Katerina Kolyva, Managing Director, European Cultural Interactions, Athens
- \* Genevieve Macklin, Housing Director, Association of London Government
- \* Margarita Perez-Garcia, Researcher in Education Sciences, SCIENTER, Bologna
- \* Robbie Wigley-Jones, Partner, Human Resource Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers, London

3. **The case for occupational mobility : the lifelong learning model and the transparency of qualifications**

- \* Paolo Federighi, Professor, University of Florence (chair)
- \* Jens Bjornavold, CEDEFOP, Brussels
- \* Soeren Kristensen, Chairman, Techne, Broenshoej
- \* Jean-André Lasserre, Research Manager, AFT-IFTIM Group, Paris
- \* Sue Meyer, Director for Programme and Policy, National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, London
- \* Jo Ritzen, President of the University of Maastricht

12.30 Lunch

14.30 Reports from the panel sessions

15.15 **"Building on experience : towards a mobility culture for workers in Europe"**

Panel discussion, with the participation of :

Jan Andersson, Chairman of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, European Parliament

Jan Figel, European Commissioner for Education and Culture

Cathy Kopp, Directeur des Ressources humaines, Groupe ACCOR, Paris

Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for Science and Research

Moderator : William Roe, Chairman, Rocket Science, Edinburgh

16.45 **Conference Conclusions**

Nikolaus van der Pas, Director General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission

17.00 End