



## **Secure a Large Majority Now for the Services Directive!**

### **Conduct negotiations for a successful vote in February**

Brussels, 14.12.2005

**The European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW), the workers' wing of the EPP, is emphatically in support of securing a large majority now for the EU Parliament's report on the Services Directive.**

At its last meeting, the EUCDW Board welcomed the critical, but now constructive dialogue between the different social groups from politics, business and workers' representatives on the poorly conceived Commission proposal from 2004. The Board believes it is possible that – with the good will of all concerned – a directive may be produced that safeguards the advantages of competition and yet at the same time is also committed to existing national social standards.

**Every opportunity for finding a balanced compromise that has cross-party support should therefore certainly be explored.** This is also needed to dispel the public's lack of faith in a balanced shape being achieved for the EU internal market.

A strategy of allowing an unbalanced view from the EU Parliament to be passed with just a small majority would significantly reduce the Parliament's influence in this important area.

**For the EUCDW the key points in relation to the Services Directive are that:**

- **national employment and social standards are not affected by the Directive;**
- **Member States' ability to act in this area is retained; and that**
- **in respect of providing citizens with 'public services', the right of Member States to prescribe nationwide provision at affordable prices and certain standards of quality is guaranteed.**

The European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW) is made up of 22 workers' organisations from 16 countries and is an association of the European People's Party (EPP). Officially responsible for the EUCDW is Christoph Weißkirchen, the General Secretary. Tel 0032 2 285 4164, fax 0032 2 285 4141, e-mail: [eucdw@epp-eu.org](mailto:eucdw@epp-eu.org) website: [www.eucdw.org](http://www.eucdw.org)