



EU-Parliament rewrites "Bolkestein-Directive"

Freedom to provide services only by maintaining social protection

Strasbourg, 16.02.2006

The EUCDW welcomes the cross-party compromise that has been found on the Services Directive

This paves the way towards a good balance between opening up the market for competition, which can ultimately be to everyone's benefit, and the necessary social protection.

The EUCDW therefore is convinced that this balanced line taken by the EU Parliament will set the tone for the ongoing consultation process. Council and EU-Commission have now the responsibility to follow this guideline.

For the EUCDW the two following decisions are of special importance. They make clear that the EU bases on Fundamental Rights and aims at maintaining social cohesion."

Article 1.4

"This Directive shall not apply to or affect labour law i.e. any legal or contractual provision concerning employment conditions, working conditions, including health and safety at work, and the relationships between employers and workers. In particular it shall fully respect the right to negotiate, conclude, extend and enforce collective agreements, and the right to strike and to take industrial action according to the rules governing industrial relations in Member States. It shall also not affect national social security legislation in the Member States."

Article 1.4b

"This Directive shall not be interpreted as affecting in any way the exercise of fundamental rights as recognized in the Member States and in the EU-Charter of Fundamental Rights, including the right to take industrial action."

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, Website: www.eucdw.org