



## Services: Council Agreement is a Victory for the EU-Parliament

### Elmar Brok congratulates the Austrian Presidency – EUCDW sees the position of the Parliament as a benchmark

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Elmar Brok MEP and President of the EUCDW, welcomes the Council agreement on the Services Directive also as a victory for the EU-Parliament. The representation of the EU citizens – in close cooperation especially with the Social partners - rephrased the directive in such a way that it allows competition to strengthen productivity, that it blocks social dumping and upholds the protection of the consumers. Without this position, which is carried by a broad majority, the compromise in the council probably would not have been possible.

Brok: „The liberal teeth of the original proposal of the EU commission have been removed. The so-called ‘land-of origin-principle’ was deleted by the EU-Parliament, the field of application limited and the rights of control and surveillance were given to the country where a service is performed.”

The EU-Parliament will have to measure the final version of the Council’s text by this progress. In this context Brok especially refers to the high-quality wording of the EU-Parliament in view of the labour law as well as the link to the Charter of Fundamental Rights; the final decision must not remain behind this bench mark:

#### **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: [euclidw@epp.eu](mailto:euclidw@epp.eu), Website: [www.euclidw.org](http://www.euclidw.org)