



Services Directive : Strengthening competition and maintaining social protection

Workers movement enforced significant changes – Success also for the European Parliament

Brussels, 16.11.2006

The EUCDW welcomes the final adoption by the European Parliament of the cross-party compromise that has been found in the Council on the Services Directive. Due to the continuous pressure of the European Workers Movement the EU Commission stressed in a separate declaration before the vote that the directive had no impact neither on labour law nor on the rights of the Social Partners.

With its decision the European Parliament confirmed the targets it defined in February: Necessary is a good balance between opening up the market for competition, which can ultimately be to everyone's benefit, and the appropriate social protection. By this decision it prevented possible extortion of the Internal Market by an uncontrollable competition which would have led to undermining labour protection as well as consumer protection.

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

Consideration 15

This Directive respects the exercise of fundamental rights applicable in the Member States and as recognised in the Charter of fundamental Rights of the European Union

Article 1.6

This Directive does not affect labour law, that is any legal or contractual provision concerning employment conditions, working conditions, including health and safety at work and the relationship between employers and workers, which Member States apply in accordance with national law which respects Community law. Equally, this Directive does not affect the social security legislation of the Member States.

Article 1.7

This Directive does not affect the exercise of fundamental rights as recognised in the Member States and by Community law. Nor does it affect the right to negotiate, conclude and enforce collective agreements and to take industrial action in accordance with national law and practices which respect Community law.

The European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW) is made up of 23 workers' organisations from 17 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