

MORE WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE PEOPLE !

*With the Employment Council on December 6th set to discuss
the EU Directive on Agency Work and flexicurity policy,
a new comprehensive report¹ on private employment agencies provides comparative data
on the industry's positive contribution to European labour markets*

Brussels, November 28th, 2007

The private employment agency industry is expected to create more than 2.1 million new jobs in Europe by 2012 through structural growth and the lifting of unnecessary restrictions on the use of agency work:

- Private employment agencies are already an engine for job creation, currently employing 3.3 million agency workers (full time equivalent) across Europe. Continued structural growth will raise this by 1.6 million to reach 4.98 million jobs by 2012.
- In addition to these 1.6 million new jobs, the report shows that the industry can create a further 570,000 extra jobs if two specific restrictions on temporary agency work are lifted in just 6 key EU countries²: sectoral bans (for instance, the use of agency work is not accepted in the Public Sector in Belgium, France and Spain and in the construction sector in Germany and Spain) and limitation of reasons of use (e.g. in Belgium, the use of temporary agency work is restricted to 3 justifications defined by law).

These are the main findings of a report on the agency work industry in Europe published today by the European Confederation of Private Employment Agencies (Eurociett). The results show that the agency work industry is a real engine for job creation and economic growth, while also contributing to facilitate transitions and work mobility in the labour market.

With the focus on offering more work opportunities to people across Europe, the sector contributes to more efficient labour markets by reducing unemployment, resolving skill shortages and increasing diversity, especially by helping 'outsiders' to re-enter the labour market.

Out of the extra 570,000 new jobs to be created if restrictions are lifted, 37% would be filled by young people, 15% by long-term unemployed and 6% by older workers. These 570,000 jobs would also increase public income by 8.9 billion euros and lead to substantial savings of over 3.6 billion euros in terms of unemployment benefits. In addition, lifting restrictions and enhancing the role of agency work will play a key role in combating illegal work, further increasing public income.

In light of the upcoming Employment Council on December 6th - during which important policy initiatives such as flexicurity, the agency work and the working time directives are expected to be discussed - the report provides numerous case studies and scientific data from across Europe on the current and potential impact of the industry in improving the functioning of labour markets. The findings from the research underline the crucial importance of ensuring that any agreement on the EU Agency Work Directive enhances rather than hinders the effective provision of temporary work services across Europe.

¹ This report is based on a research commissioned by Eurociett and conducted in the first half of 2007 with the support and assistance of Bain & Company, a global management-consulting firm.

² Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, UK

Annemarie Muntz, President of Eurociett, stated: *“The report demonstrates that private employment agencies are more than ever ready to bring into the EU debate proposals for modern, efficient and more inclusive labour markets. Private employment agencies should be recognised as key players to reach the Lisbon employment objectives, and given credit for increasing labour market participation and diversity. Therefore, outdated and unjustified restrictions to the provision of services by private employment agencies should be reviewed and lifted.”*

About the report

Entitled “More work opportunities for more people”, the report is based on comprehensive research:

- Extensive data gathering at European level with numerous case studies from the six main countries researched.
- 20 interviews of key industry stakeholders and experts worldwide.
- In March and April 2007, 65 leading ‘names’ associated with the industry participated in an online survey assessing perceptions of temporary agency work.
- Comparative data and case studies from the six largest European markets: France, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, and Spain (jointly accounted for approximately 85% of the EU-27 agency work market in 2006.)
- Comparisons between the US and Japan and numerous case studies from other EU member states.

About Eurociett

Eurociett is the authoritative voice representing the interests of agency work businesses in Europe and is an official Social Partner for the temporary agency work sector within the framework of the European Social Dialogue. It is recognised as such by the EU institutions (Commission, Parliament, Council) as well as by key European stakeholders (Uni-Europa, ETUC, BusinessEurope, NGOs).

Eurociett is the only association representing Agency Work at large (brings together 26 countries) and in its diversity (represent the six largest multinational staffing companies worldwide – Adecco, Kelly Services, Manpower, Randstad, USG People and Vedior) – as well as tens of thousands of SMEs. Eurociett members consist of private companies operating in the following HR fields: temporary agency work, permanent recruitment, interim management, executive search, outplacement and training.

Eurociett promotes the contribution of millions of agency workers to our economy. Representing a well-regulated industry, members of Eurociett refuse to compete to the expenses of workers’ rights and work hand-in-hand with governments to fight illegal work and social dumping.

For more information please contact:

Annemarie Muntz

President
Eurociett
Tel: +31 653 778 741
E-Mail: a.l.muntz@vedior.nl

Denis Pennel

Managing Director
Eurociett
Tel: +32 475 86 75 10
E-Mail: denis.pennel@ciett.org