

BUSINESSEUROPE



THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mr José Manuel Barroso
President
European Commission

Mr Vladimír Špidla
Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal
Opportunities
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

6 February 2009

Dear President Barroso, dear Commissioner Spidla,

BUSINESSEUROPE is greatly concerned about recent actions aimed at preventing legal employment of foreign European workers in some Member States. We understand workers' concerns in the face of the economic crisis but protectionist reactions are unacceptable.

The European Commission, who is the guardian of the Treaties, should give a clear signal that violations of fundamental treaty freedoms cannot be tolerated in Member States.

These reactions are also counter-productive as a well-functioning single market is key for the creation of more growth and jobs in the European Union. In this context, posting of workers is essential as it enhances international trade in services. It also plays a crucial economic role in filling temporary shortfalls in the labour supply in certain professions.

BUSINESSEUROPE remains convinced that the Posting of Workers Directive provides adequate protection to workers and ensure fair competition in the internal market. Action is needed to improve compliance with this Directive but revising it is not necessary. BUSINESSEUROPE has accepted to discuss how to do this with the European trade unions.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe de Buck