



European Trade Union  
Confederation (ETUC)  
Confédération  
européenne des  
syndicats (CES)

BUSINESSEUROPE



The voice of crafts and SMEs in Europe



European Centre of  
Employers and Enterprises  
providing Public services

Mr. Laszlo Andor  
Commissioner for Employment,  
Social Affairs and Inclusion  
European Commission  
200, rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Brussels

19 December 2012

Dear Commissioner,

The European Employment Services tool (EURES) plays a valuable role in exchanging information on the availability of labour, vacancies, living and working conditions as well as facilitating cooperation between its members and with relevant stakeholders.

Nevertheless, in view of the current nature of the employment situation in Europe, which is characterised by high levels of unemployment, particularly among young people, the proposed re-launch of EURES, including a more targeted matching of skills and vacancies, is welcomed by the European social partners as a means to help people find work through greater intra-EU mobility.

In their capacity as core labour market actors, social partners help shape the national employment outlook and skills competences held by jobseekers. In this respect, they play a crucial role in EURES activities that are aimed at matching skills and vacancies. Therefore, the role of social partners must be better anchored in the reformed EURES. **Social partners should be full partners of the network, with tasks which may include advice and assistance for enterprises and workers, and information concerning business and work-related issues.**

A further element of the proposed reform is the inclusion of cross-border and national activities within the framework of the European Social Fund (ESF), while horizontal activities will be part of the Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI).

We would like to underline the important role played by cross-border partnerships in regions where there are significant cross-border commuter flows. This includes providing information on living and working conditions in the neighbouring country, providing individual advice as well as running initiatives and events to promote cross-border mobility. This role must be maintained and must not be jeopardised by the proposed reform. In this regard, we would like to see clear EURES priorities within the ESF to ensure appropriate support for cross-border and national activities and to ensure that application procedures and the granting of support remain coherent, transparent and easily manageable.

At the same time it is crucial that the EURES actions falling under the ESF and those under the PSCI are coherent in their purpose of promoting workers' geographic mobility.

We thank you for your attention and hope that you will take into account our requests in the preparation of the new EURES charter.


This letter has been copied to Koos Richelle, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Free Movement of Workers and Zoltan Kazatsay, Chair of the ESF Committee.

We remain at your disposal for any further clarification or discussion.

Yours sincerely,



**ETUC**  
Bernadette Segol  
General Secretary



**BUSINESSEUROPE**  
Markus J. Beyrer  
Director General



**UEAPME**  
Andrea Benassi  
Secretary General



**CEEP**  
Valeria Ronzitti  
General Secretary