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EUROCADRES' opinion Mario Monti's Single Market Report

1. General support for Monti report

EUROCADRES strongly supports Mario Monti's Single Market report. There are several reasons why the functioning of this market has to be developed. The full potential of the Single Market has not been used, its employment effects could be better and its qualitative aspects need to be improved.

The approach of the Monti report is balanced. It understands that the Single Market does not exist only for the purposes of companies, but also for workers, consumers and for all citizens. The report offers a balanced approach to the Single Market which takes into account both economic, social and environmental aspects. The goal of the report to build a consensus around the Single Market is a very positive one.

The report is also rich in practical proposals. It shows how much could and should be done in this field.

2. EUROCADRES' priority issues

The idea about the voluntary European Free Movement Card. The card would contain in a single document all the information a European Citizen may require in another Member State in addition to identity and nationality: work permit status, social status and entitlement to social security. *EUROCADRES* recommends that the feasibility of this Card be explored immediately.

The report states that "Europe can reap the greatest benefits from mobility of highly skilled workers in new and innovative sectors, through adapting to new dynamic types of mobility and by encouraging forms of intra-EU circular mobility that compensates brain drains with brain gains". *EUROCADRES* agrees fully with this and this kind of European Card might be one way to encourage mobility. *EUROCADRES* is not in favour of national mobility cards within the European labour market, because they may lead to protectionism.

However, it is not clear what would be the relationship between this Free Movement Card and the existing European health card for mobile people and the possible professional cards. It is advisable that the feasibility study clarifies the situation between different existing and projected mobility cards. The EU cannot have a multitude of different mobility cards which would be confusing, in particular, for mobile employees.

EUROCADRES would like to raise the complexity of international recognition of professional qualifications as well. Automatic recognition of qualifications applies only to seven out of more than 800 professions. As Mario Monti's report advocates, the

current Directive of Mutual Recognition of Qualifications should be clarified and strengthened. The report proposes that the scope of this Directive should be expanded to new sectors targeting in particular certain new highly skilled professions.

EUROCADRES warmly supports the suggestion that the scope and the content of the Mutual Recognition Directive should be modernised and expanded. This development work should get underway immediately. *EUROCADRES* also points out that the use of article 15 in the Directive of Mutual Recognition of Qualifications has to be explored in this context. It gives a possibility for professional organisations to propose minimum educational levels at the European level for the purposes of mutual recognition.

3. *EUROCADRES* also underlines

The portability of supplementary pensions, tax obstacles to cross-border work and health insurance rights are a real problem area, as stated by the Report. In particular, highly mobile workers are suffering and urgent measures are needed.

EUROCADRES notes with interest the proposal to develop Eures network with Public employment services and the Social Partners. *EUROCADRES* may offer some added-value in this context thanks to its Mobil-net network for mobile P&MS.

Alongside the proposed tax coordination, Europe needs tax harmonization by creating minimum levels and common tax bases in the areas close to the Single Market. A pure tax coordination is not enough and the European tax policy is more and more guided by the European Court of Justice, if the political decisions are not taken.

The proposals concerning the reconciliation between economic freedoms and workers' rights (linked to the Viking, Laval, Balpa and other cases) is important. Fundamental rights lie at the core of European values and they cannot be broken.

The Report does not deal with the new legal basis for the Regulation concerning Services of General Interest, introduced by the Lisbon Treaty. Why? It may be the part of the "balanced approach" to the Single Market.

Cross-border health-care provision is needed urgently. The legal uncertainty concerning cross-border health services is great and the situation of patients, in particular patient safety, not clear. *EUROCADRES* underlines that free movement of patients, based on the principles laid down by the European Court of Justice, is a right for European citizens. It should not be hindered by unnecessary restrictions. The Council of Ministers' decision on 7-8 June 2010 on this directive contains excessive impediments for free movement of patients.