

Mr Giuseppe Pisanu
President of the Justice and Home Affairs Council
Council of the European Union
175, rue la Loi
1048 Bruxelles

3 November 2003

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear President,

ADMISSION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES

In view of the Council's 27-28 November discussion on the proposal for a directive on admission and residence of third-country nationals for employment purposes, UNICE would like to draw your attention to the attached UNICE position paper on this initiative.

European employers are concerned by the lack of progress in Council discussions on the envisaged Directive, which was published by the Commission more than two years ago.

Implementation of the Tampere agenda focused essentially on border controls and fighting illegal immigration. In UNICE's view, a well-managed European policy framework on admission and residence of third-country nationals for employment purposes is equally important. In this context, it welcomes the European Council's reiterated support to a balanced approach between fighting illegal migration on the one hand and reception and integration of legal migrants on the other.

The proposal for a directive on admission of third-country nationals for employment purposes offers an opportunity to simplify administrative procedures, notably by setting up a system to allow third-country nationals already legally present in a Member States to work legally in another EU country without having to return to their country of origin to carry out the administrative procedures. It also does so by introducing a one-stop shop for the issuing of both residence and work permits and by providing for more transparency in conduct of the "economic needs test" by national administrations. European employers very much hope that these elements will be received positively when the Council enters into substantive discussions on this proposal.

We would be grateful if you could also arrange to circulate this letter and the attached position paper to your fellow Justice and Home Affairs Ministers. We are also sending this letter to the forthcoming Irish presidency.

Yours sincerely,



Phillippe de Buck