



## NOTE FOR THE PRESS

24 November 2008

On 24 November, a year before the national transposition deadline, BUSINESSEUROPE held the event “*Ready, Steady, Service! The Services Directive: state of play with implementation*” that provided a snapshot, of the state of play on the incorporation of the Services Directive - adopted in December 2006 – into national law.

BUSINESSEUROPE presented a comparative report on national transposition based on information provided by its member federations. Speakers and participants had the opportunity to express their views and expectations. A series of **key recommendations** were provided for a high quality transposition of the Directive by 28 December 2009:

- 1 National governments were urged to increase their efforts to ensure a high quality, uniform and timely transposition. Member states are progressing at different speeds and there is a risk of delays in transposition and uneven implementation (see Chart 1 below).
- 2 National screenings should be speeded up and lead to the simplification and modernisation of existing national rules. In some countries no substantial change is expected (see Chart 2 below).
- 3 Point(s) of single contact must be adequately equipped and staffed to allow for - even with remote access - provision of the relevant information and completion of formalities.
- 4 Electronic procedures and their interoperability must be fully developed. The use of English language should be promoted to facilitate access to the point(s) of single contact by providers from other Member States.
- 5 An EU-wide public registry (e.g. a website in all EU languages) should be created with all information on the national transposition.
- 6 Consultation with representative stakeholders, including leading national business federations is not satisfactory and must be strengthened.
- 7 National governments should organise a broad communication campaign with the assistance of the Commission to explain the opportunities created by the directive.

## The EU services sector is a pillar for the recovery of the EU economy and the post-Lisbon Strategy

- It represents about 70% of the European GDP and of total EU employment. Between 2000 and 2005, services accounted for some 95% of total net job creation in the EU<sup>1</sup>.
- The services sector is still significantly lagging behind the goods sector in terms of market integration. Services represent almost 30% of exports from the EU to the rest of the world, while they account for only 20% of exports between EU Member States<sup>2</sup>.
- The single market for services, one of the fundamental freedoms of the single market, is not yet a reality across Europe and faces numerous barriers.

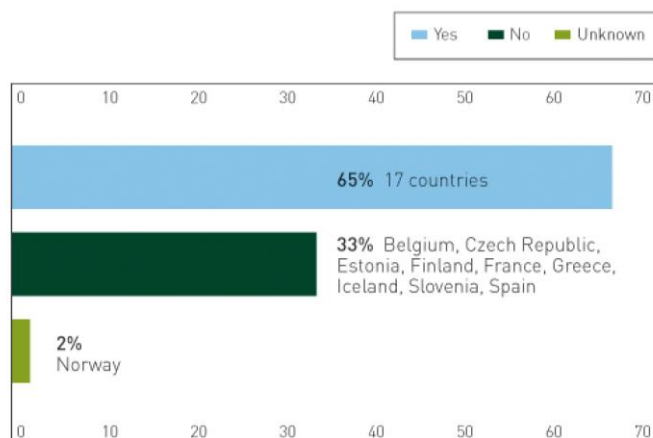
## The Services Directive is an important step for development of the EU services market

- Simpler and more common rules on services
- Reduction of red tape, time and costs
- Better and clearer information and rights for service recipients
- Enhanced collaboration and mutual assistance between public authorities

### Chart 1

Will your government meet the transposition deadline?

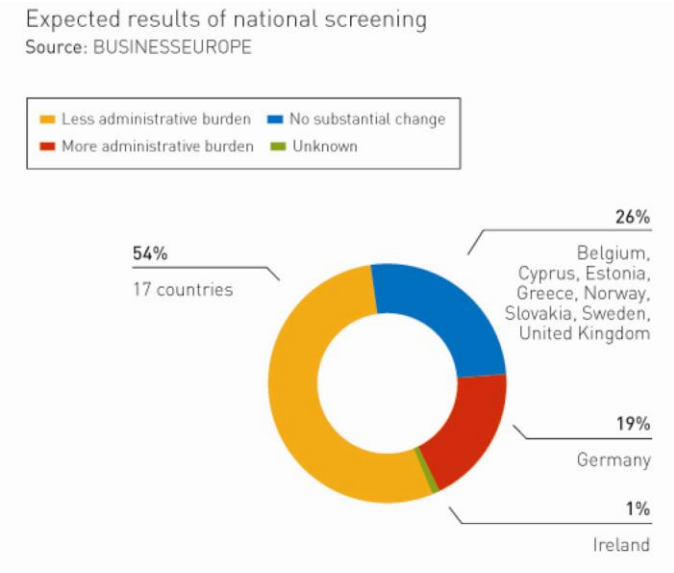
Source: BUSINESSEUROPE



<sup>1</sup> European Commission's "Employment in Europe" 2006 Report.

<sup>2</sup> Eurostat, "Intra EU share of EU international trade in services amounts for 57% in 2007", Issue 57/2008

**Chart 2**



Annex: BUSINESSEUROPE report on transposition of the Services Directive, November 2008.