

BUSINESSEUROPE



Services Directive: the European business perspective on implementation

Malta Business Bureau Seminar on Services Directive

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BUSINESSEUROPE – who we are and what we do

- The Confederation of European Business
- The voice of more than 20 million SMEs & large companies
- Members: “Members First”
 - 40 central industrial and employers’ federations
 - From 34 countries
- Recognised as European social partner
- Mission:
 - To work together to achieve growth & competitiveness in Europe
- Purpose:
 - Influence EU policies to create a business-friendly environment



BUSINESSEUROPE – 40 members in 34 countries

							 Confederation of Danish Industry
Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	Denmark
							
Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Iceland
							
Iceland	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Montenegro
							
Norway	Poland	Portugal	Portugal	Rep. San Marino	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia
							
Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	Switzerland	The Netherlands	Turkey	Turkey	United Kingdom



Not yet a real single market in services

- In Europe: 70% GDP, 68% employment, 96% new jobs and 30% exports
- Services: only 20% intra-EU trade
- Why? Too many barriers created by
 - ✓ divergent national, regional and local laws
 - ✓ administrative obstacles: quantitative restrictions, prior authorisations, etc.
 - ✓ lack of confidence between Member States and protectionist tendencies



Services Directive

- Adopted on 27 December 2006
- Internal Market instrument intended to remove barriers to establishment and cross-border provision of services
- Horizontal approach covering wide range of services (retail, construction, professional services, tourism, etc)
- Transposition deadline: 28 December 2009



Expected benefits of the Directive

- Simpler and more common rules:
 - ✓ simplification of national requirements
 - ✓ transparency on national systems
- Fewer and speedier formalities and better information:
 - ✓ point(s) of single contact
 - ✓ electronic procedures
- Administrative cooperation:
 - ✓ trust and assistance between competent authorities



Assessment of implementation

National transposition is progressing but with serious risks:

- Patchy, incorrect or late transposition
- Limited regulatory and administrative simplification
- Not fully operational PSCs and no interoperable e-tools
- Lack of adequate financial and human resources
- Limited use of cross-border facilitators (foreign languages)
- Insufficient coordination of the various levels of public administration responsible for the directive
- Declining political will and commitment



National Governments must (1):

1. Accomplish high quality and uniform transposition by 28 December and continue efforts for 2010
2. Ensure that national screenings results in simplification and modernisation of national legal orders
3. Equip and staff point(s) of single contact so they provide relevant information and assist for completion of formalities effectively



National Governments must (2):

4. Develop interoperable and efficient electronic procedures and use of foreign languages, particularly English, in PSCs
5. Organise communication and information campaigns to explain opportunities and benefits particularly for SMEs
6. Ensure business stakeholders are fully involved in the mutual evaluation process in a structured and transparent manner



Thank you for your attention!



**More information on the
Services Directive at:**

<http://www.businessseurope.eu/Content/Default.asp?PageID=446>

