

4 November 2011

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SERVICES DIRECTIVE

KEY MESSAGES

- 1 Europe's service sectors are a driving force for growth and job creation representing almost 75% of EU GDP and two-thirds of employment. Yet, cross-border services account for only 5% of EU GDP compared with 17% for goods because service companies are still faced with too many regulatory, linguistic and administrative barriers.
- 2 Complete and correct implementation of the Services Directive is key for Europe's competitiveness as it could bring gains up to 1.5% of EU GDP. Therefore, Member States that are still lagging behind with implementing the adopted rules need to catch up urgently.
- 3 Putting in place well-functioning Points of Single Contact to provide companies with the necessary information and assistance is crucial to boost cross-border but also domestic service provision. More needs to be done to make the portals more user-friendly and functional, responding to the needs of business.

WHAT DOES BUSINESSEUROPE AIM FOR?

- A fully integrated Single Market for services to enhance Europe's competitiveness, boost growth and create new jobs while offering more choice and better services to citizens and businesses.
- Complete and correct implementation of the Services Directive in all Member States.
- More user-friendly Points of Single Contact that offer companies the possibility to complete administrative procedures entirely online and provide all the necessary information and assistance, in various languages in addition to English.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

9 out of 10 new jobs are created in Europe's service sectors.

Only 8% of European SMEs providing services operate in other Member States.

3 Member States have still not put in place a "first generation" online Point of Single Contact portal.

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- Restraining rules on reserved activities, burdensome insurance, legal form and ownership requirements and other restrictive national legislation must be removed.
- Better recognition of professional qualifications throughout Europe as free movement of labour is often a prerequisite for cross-border service provision and establishment abroad.

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