



Ms Salla Saastamoinen
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*[Letter sent by email:
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Brussels, 27 November 2015

Dear Ms Saastamoinen,

We would like to thank you for seeking the views of BUSINESSEUROPE as regards the implementation of directive 2010/41/EU in your letter dated 04 September 2015.

First of all, BUSINESSEUROPE would like to stress that according to our knowledge, the directive 2010/41/EU has been transposed adequately or existing national legislation already complied with its provisions, notably with respect to the principle of equal treatment.

BUSINESSEUROPE would like to underline the fact that self-employed are entrepreneurs. This means that they logically cannot be protected the same way as a worker or an employee working under a contract of employment.

Self-employed persons provide services and can be individual businesses as such. Therefore they do not have the same employment rights and legal protection as workers or employees. We would also like to recall that self-employment is defined in various ways in the EU Member States; in some no such definition exist.

BUSINESSEUROPE believes that there is no need to review or amend the directive. What the European Commission should focus on is to promote and support more women to become entrepreneurs. This starts with creating a culture whereby individuals are encouraged to take initiatives and reasonable risks at an early stage in their life. Adaptations to the curricula of the schools and universities for both male/female students and boys/girls pupils is important to achieve high levels of entrepreneurship in Europe.

Fostering entrepreneurship also comes along with strengthened efforts to reduce red tape to set up a legal structure and run a business in a self-employed capacity. Access to finance should be facilitated and in fact we support the view that women entrepreneurs should not be discriminated irrespective of their mother/parent status.



Finally, equality bodies at national level can play a role in ensuring the practical implementation of the directive in the different EU countries, but we would like to underline the fact that such bodies greatly vary from one country to another when it comes to whom they represent and their capacities. In addition to following the implementation of EU regulations, these bodies should equally work to promote a positive attitude towards women's entrepreneurship and self-employment.

We remain at your disposal concerning this topic.

Yours sincerely,

Maxime Cerutti
Director – Social Affairs Department