Citizens' summary

An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- **Unemployment in Europe is far too high** – almost 10%. This is partly, but not solely, due to the economic crisis.
- Europe's population is ageing, so to sustain our social model **the percentage of the population in employment needs to increase**.
- People need to have the right **skills for the jobs of the future**.

WHAT ACTION IS THE EU PROPOSING?

- **Making labour markets function better through further reform**:
  - working contracts that allow people to enter the labour market and progress
  - more adjustable unemployment benefits
  - more individually-tailored help for people looking for work
  - better incentives to take up learning opportunities.
- **Equipping people with the right skills for employment**:
  - An 'EU skills panorama' will be created to help people better see which skills are most needed now and in the future.
  - Further actions will allow people to develop the right mix of skills and help them find jobs.
- **Improving job quality and working conditions**:
  - The legal framework for employment, health and safety (for example on working time, or moving from one country to another) will be reviewed so that it supports both employment growth and the quality of jobs.
- We will make legislation more effective and easier for individuals and businesses to understand and apply.
- **Creating jobs** - we will improve the conditions for setting up and running a business, for example by:
  - proposing lower taxes on labour
  - reducing the administrative burden.

WHO WILL BENEFIT AND HOW?

All Europeans will benefit:

- More people will have **jobs**.
- Growth and employment pay for our **social welfare systems**.
- **Vulnerable groups** hit hardest by the crisis will find it easier to get back into or remain in work.

WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

- **EU countries face similar challenges** in employment, including competition from other parts of the world, so responses are best developed together.
- **Workers need to be able to move more easily between EU countries** - this is most effectively encouraged at EU level.

WHEN IS THE PROPOSAL LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

A range of actions will be put into place in the coming years – the 'Agenda' is valid until 2014.

2010 – information published on the **top 25 growth professions** throughout Europe and an **analysis of the required skills**.

2011 – focus on **discussing labour market reforms with EU countries**.

By **2012** – **EU skills panorama** up and running.