

Citizens' summary

EU employment package

The EU employment package is a set of European Commission policy recommendations to national governments with a clear focus on job creation and better employment policies.

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- Creating jobs is a major challenge for the EU, as it struggles to emerge from its harshest economic crisis since the Second World War.

Forecasts suggest weak growth ahead, with mild employment recovery prospects expected to come to a halt in 2012.

- EU unemployment has risen again since spring 2011, reaching a new historic high of 10.1% (10.7% in the eurozone). Over 40% of unemployed people have been looking for work for more than a year and over 22% of young people in the EU are unemployed.
- A consistent and coordinated approach to employment policies is needed.

WHAT DOES THE EMPLOYMENT PACKAGE INVOLVE?

- Encouragement for job creation through support for labour demand, entrepreneurship and self-employment, conversion of informal or undeclared work into regular employment, and wages that ensure competitiveness and provide income security.
- Fuller exploitation of the job creation potential of key industries, such as the green economy, the health and social care sector and the digital economy.

This will include a public consultation on personal and household services (from childcare or long-term care to cooking and cleaning).

- EU funding for job creation through the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund, the European Progress Microfinance Facility and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund.
- Labour market reforms to support labour market transitions, reduce segmentation, anticipate economic restructuring, develop lifelong learning and deliver youth opportunities.
- Investment in skills, anticipating future labour-market requirements (including a public consultation on the need for EU quality guidelines for traineeships)
- Removal of obstacles that discourage people from looking for work in other EU countries
- Improved schemes for matching jobs with jobseekers.
- Better coordination and monitoring of employment policies across Europe.
- Improved involvement of employers' and workers' groups in employment policy making in Europe.

WHO WILL BENEFIT AND HOW?

- **Jobseekers** – more opportunities for training and employment
- **People in work** – measures to help them stay up to date with a changing labour market
- **Employers** – support in creating new jobs and help with structural change

- **Governments** – policy support and coordination

WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

- The crisis has shown the high degree of inter-dependence of European economies. Only a coordinated set of measures has any real chance of producing a significant lasting impact on job creation.

WHEN IS THE PROPOSAL LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

- Immediately – with a scoreboard to keep track of progress from early 2013.