

Eurociett/UNI Europa statement on the roundtable on temporary agency work in Serbia

Belgrade, 12 September 2014

On 12 September, Eurociett and UNI Europa organised a roundtable event to promote social dialogue in the temporary agency work sector in Serbia.

The meeting, financially supported by the European Commission, brought together the Serbian social partners, representatives of the government and of the International Labour Organization to discuss key issues, challenges and opportunities of temporary agency work in the country.

In particular, the roundtable offered the stakeholders in the temporary agency work sector a platform to exchange views on the ongoing labour market reforms and on the adoption of regulation in line with the ILO Convention on Private Employment Agencies, 1997 (No. 181) and the EU Directive on temporary agency work 2008/104/EC.

Eurociett and UNI Europa hope that the roundtable will provide the opportunity for the Serbian social partners to organise themselves and to represent employers and workers in a way that will foster meaningful social dialogue in the temporary agency work sector.

Eurociett and UNI Europa encourage the Serbian sectoral social partners and the government to work together and keep the dialogue open beyond this event as to build on the momentum and on the good ideas discussed today.

Keeping the social dialogue open is a way to achieve the appropriate level of regulation on the sector and to enhance the employment conditions of agency workers. The sectoral social partners represent a source of knowledge and expertise that the government can take advantage of as it adopts the new law on agency work. Indeed, if temporary agency work is appropriately regulated it can complement open-ended contracts and contribute to employment creation and to labour market participation and integration.

To this end, Eurociett and UNI Europa invite the Serbian government to keep the sectoral social partners involved in this process as to ensure that the new law will be balanced and in accordance with Convention No. 181 and the EU Directive on temporary agency work. In this respect, Eurociett and UNI Europa are available to offer their assistance and experience to the Serbian social partners, if needed.

Eurociett and UNI Europa will follow up on the results of this roundtable with the sectoral social partners and will discuss progress made in Serbia in the context of the activities of their EU Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on temporary agency work.