

Carrefour - Belgium



Although the redundancies are spread throughout Belgium; only the workers laid off in Wallonia are expected to participate in the measures.

Reference	EGF/2019/001 BE/Carrefour
Member State	Belgium
Sector	Retail trade, except motor vehicles and motorcycles
Submitted to European Commission	20 June 2019
Total budget planned	EUR 2 720 047
EGF contribution	EUR 1 632 028
Intervention criterion	Article 4(1)(a) of the EGF Regulation
Period of reference	30 November 2018 - 30 March 2019
Redundancies during period of reference	751
Active employment measures	To be provided for 400 workers and 330 NEETs, and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - individual job search assistance, by Forem's redeployment units; - training and re-training; - promotion of entrepreneurship; - contribution to business start up; and - allowances (job-search and training; back to school; and towards business creation) and contributions to commuting expenses.

BACKGROUND

- Retail trade is going through a period of major changes, due to globalisation (online shopping). Retail Ecommerce sales worldwide have been growing steadily by above 20% per year, in the last years.
- In the EU, the percentage of the population purchasing online increased from 47% to 69% over the period 2013-2018 and online shopping from sellers outside the EU is becoming more and more popular. It grew from 14% to 26% over the same period.
- Online shopping in web-shops based in non-EU countries is having a major impact on the sales of conventional retail stores in the Union and it is contributing to the decline in sales of non-food products in hypermarkets.
- While the Carrefour brands based in fresh products are doing well (Carrefour express and Carrefour market), the profitability and turnover of Carrefour hypermarkets is declining, dragged by the decline in sales of non-food products (19% over the period 2012-2017).
- The decline in sales of non-food products has triggered the closure of one Carrefour hypermarket and the renting out of parts of the stores' surface, this resulting in redundancies.
- The redundancies are expected to have a significant adverse impact in Wallonia due to the scarcity of jobs and the difficulties of redeployment for workers aged 50+.