

# Joint Declaration

## Euro-CIETT/ UNI-Europa Joint Declaration on the Sectoral Social Dialogue on Agency Work

The European Sectoral Social Partners on Agency Work, Euro-CIETT and UNI-Europa, meeting in Brussels on 3rd July 2000 recognise each other as representative organisations in the sector. They warmly welcome the beginning of a European sectoral Social Dialogue and the support received from the European Commission to allow these important discussions to start.

Both organisations are hopeful and confident that the sectoral Social Dialogue will have positive effects on this important industry which will benefit all parties involved in Europe – employees, the agencies and user enterprises. A sectoral social dialogue in this area should deal with paid agency-supplied workers. On the basis that agency work may play a positive role in the labour market, the sectoral social dialogue should work towards improving the quality and the operation of the European labour market, the employment and working conditions of agency-supplied workers as well as further professionalisation of the sector.

Private employment agencies represent a young industry in certain EU Member States and there is currently insufficient data and research on the industry. In 1994 already, Euro-CIETT and UNI-Europa (then Euro-FIET) jointly asked the Commission to undertake a study of the EU agency work industry.

The situation has changed significantly since 1994. Several factors have played a role in this evolution:

- The ongoing progress of the industry in many EU Member States has widened the scope of the services the sector provides and has increased the contribution the industry makes to the economy and the labour market.
  - Social partners have negotiated and signed collective agreements in many countries with the aim to regulate and improve working conditions of agency-supplied workers.
  - The ILO adopted in 1997 a Convention on Private Employment Agencies (Convention 181) in which text it recognised the role that Private Employment Agencies may play in well-functioning labour markets, and that there is a need for workers' protection.
  - Several Member States have adopted legislation modifying their national legal frameworks. There is no longer an outright prohibition on agency work in any EU Member State.
- UNI-Europa and Euro-CIETT support the current negotiations, leading to European-wide framework legislation, taking place between UNICE-CEEP and ETUC and will seek to play an active role in their progression.

Euro-CIETT and UNI-Europa look forward to contributing to the successful improvement of the sector in the interests of all parties involved.

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