



EUROPEAN BUILDERS CONFEDERATION

The Voice of Construction Crafts and SMEs in Europe

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Posting of Workers Enforcement Directive

Construction SMEs welcome EPSCO agreement but ask for a database for subcontractors' liability

Brussels, 10th December 2013

Yesterday the Council of Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs reached a [general approach on the Posting of Workers Enforcement Directive](#) in order to come to an agreement in first reading.

EBC Secretary General Riccardo Viaggi, representing the view of the small and medium enterprises of the construction sector in Europe, commented on the agreement ***“The Council’s general approach represents positive news for our entrepreneurs, who have to deal with unfair competition coming from undeclared work, outright abuse of self-employed status and an insufficient control of posting situation. For that reason, even if the agreement is positive, there is a particular point we vigorously oppose. Joint liability must not become a mere B2B issue and SMEs cannot be tasked with the duties of police officers and inspection agencies!”***

“As we have been advocating since the release of the Commission’s proposal and during our Annual Congress only 5 months ago, we suggest the introduction of a public database containing information on subcontractors’ compliance with the host country’s social legislation. The database, which might be similar to the VIES database on VAT, should be based on data collected by public authorities and on improved cooperation between Member States. We believe that this is the only effective way to achieve the goal of the enforcement directive, protecting workers’ rights and the free movement of people and companies in the Internal Market.” Riccardo Viaggi added.

“The European Parliament and the Member States have to show now their political willingness and start negotiating promptly if they want to manage to vote an agreement before the last Parliament plenary session and the recess for the European elections in May 2014” concluded Riccardo Viaggi.

* END *

Links

To read EBC position paper on the proposal on the Posting of Workers Directive, please [click here](#)

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NOTE TO THE EDITOR

Established in 1990, the European Builders Confederation - E.B.C. - is a European professional organisation representing national associations of Craftsmen and SMEs working in the construction sector. Through its national members, E.B.C. represents 2 million micro, small and medium sized enterprises from the construction sector.

The construction sector is of vital importance to the European Economy. With 3.1 million enterprises, an annual turnover of almost €1600 billion, a total direct workforce of almost 14 million, the construction sector contributes at about 10% to the GDP of the European Union.

The European construction sector is composed at about 99% of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), which produce 80% of the construction industry's output. The small enterprises (less than 50 employees) ensure 60% of the production and employ 70% of the sectors working population.

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