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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Question for Oral Answer B6-0136/2007

pursuant to Rule 108(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by Jan Andersson

on behalf of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the EURES Activity Report 2004-2005: Towards a single European labour market

European Parliament resolution on the EURES Activity Report 2004-2005: Towards a single European labour market

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Commission Decision 2003/8/EC of 23 December 2002 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1612/68 as regards the clearance of vacancies and applications for employment,
 - having regard to Commission Communication COM(2007) 116 final of 16 March 2007 on the EURES Activity Report 2004-2005: 'Towards a single European labour market: the contribution of EURES', presented by the Commission in accordance with Article 19(3) of Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68,
 - having regard to Question for Oral Answer B6-0136/2007 to the Commission on the contribution of EURES to a single European labour market,
 - having regard to Rule 108(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas geographical and occupational mobility is a crucial instrument for the success of the Revised Lisbon Strategy and whereas the Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States of 12 July 2005 highlight that mobility is central to allow more people to find better employment and call for the removal of 'obstacles to mobility for workers across Europe within the framework of the treaties'; whereas Member States still limit the geographical mobility of some EU citizens, although free movement of workers is a fundamental principle of the EU,
- B. whereas the EUR 2 million increase in the European Employment Services (EURES) budget line for 2007 aimed to further the implementation and operation of the EURES network and whereas the successful conclusion of the 2006 European Year of Workers' Mobility has led to a significant increase in consultation of the EURES Job Mobility Portal,
1. Considers that EURES should become an important European labour market communication platform - a one-stop shop for workers' geographical and occupational mobility - intended to remove existing obstacles (especially arising from work-related social security questions), to extend the knowledge of all workers about their individual rights, especially rights to equal treatment, to further the EURES advisor network in terms of both quality and quantity, to extend access to job vacancy information for seasonal or short-term workers in Member States other than their countries of origin, and to extend the content of the EURES portal to information on job offers in order to address the needs of third-country nationals, in particular from countries coming under the EU's Neighbourhood Policy;
 2. Considers that the Commission should promote further the geographical and occupational

mobility of workers through the increased budget line for 2007 in order to support projects in the area of transnational recruitment and cross-border partnerships between 'older' and 'newer' Member States and between 'newer' Member States;

3. Notes that the European Year of Workers' Mobility led to a significant increase in demand for EURES services, in particular in the field of information requests by mobile workers and mobility candidates; welcomes the work done by those contributing to EURES, such as EURES advisers, social partners and regional and local stakeholders; expects that, as a result of the increased visibility acquired by EURES in the context of the European Year and the successful organisation of European-wide job fairs, similar initiatives will be repeated in 2007;
4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.