

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0038/07

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jan Andersson, on behalf of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
to the Commission

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

Under the new Integrated Economic and Employment Guidelines 2005-2008, mobility is considered a crucial instrument for the success of the Revised Lisbon Strategy. Moreover, the Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States of July 2005 put an even greater emphasis on mobility. Guideline No 20 specifies that mobility is central to allowing more people to find better employment and calls for the removal of 'obstacles to mobility for workers across Europe within the framework of the treaties'.

The European Parliament adopted a EUR 2 million increase in the European Employment Services budget line for 2007, aimed at furthering the implementation and operation of the EURES network. The successful conclusion of the 2006 European Year of Workers' Mobility, led to a significant increase in the consultation of the EURES Job Mobility Portal. The EURES portal should become an important European labour market communications platform – a one-stop shop for workers' geographic and occupational mobility, aimed at removing existing obstacles (especially in work-related social security questions).

1. Does the Commission intend to extend the content of the EURES portal in order to address the needs of nationals from third countries, since, given the demographic changes within the EU, more sustained immigration flows are likely to be increasingly required to meet the needs of the EU labour market?
2. As a result of the increased visibility acquired by EURES in the context of the European Year, does the Commission intend to provide access to job vacancies and information on job offers for seasonal or short-term workers, since the budget increase is also intended to fund measures to provide information for the seasonal workers in Member States other than their countries of origin?
3. How does the Commission intend to support and promote further the geographic and occupational mobility of workers as a means to improving the functioning of the labour market in Europe?
4. Does the Commission intend to use research results and best practices gained in EURES projects, such as 'EURES in crossborder regions', to further the free movement of all European citizens and urge the Member States to lift the transitional measures concerning free movement of labour?

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Deadline for reply: 26.06.2007