

## **The European Employment Forum 22 & 23 November, 2011**

### ***A perspective on the new labour market reality***

Version 2

**Draft Programme** – *in development stages and subject to change*

#### **Day 1**

Registration

#### **09.00- 09.30 Solving Youth Employment Issues in Europe**

Only by addressing this critical issue will we establish a sustainable environment for our underutilised youth. The whole fabric of our society will only improve if we create smart employment for our 18-25 year olds.

**Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou, DG Education, Culture & Sport** with **Shirin Wheeler of the BBC**

#### **09.30 – 10.30 The agenda for new skills and jobs**

This session will give an overview on progress to date on achieving the Europe 2020 Strategy. Are the targets looking achievable? What are the successes to date? What are the shortfalls? How successful was the Polish Presidency of the EU in working towards these goals? What are companies doing to improve the job market?

**Koos Richelle, Director General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion**

**Minister Radosław Młeczko, Under Secretary of State, Minister of Labour and Social Policy**

**Jan Muelhfeit, Chairman, Microsoft Europe**

**Moderator: Shirin Wheeler, BBC**

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee in exhibition area

#### **11.00 – 11.45 The importance of SME's in the labour market.**

SME's provide the lifeblood of employment opportunities in the EU. We must create an environment that encourages entrepreneurs and help them realise their growth potential by taking advantage of cross-border mobility.

**Daniel Callelja-Crespo, Deputy Director, DG Enterprise and Industry**

**Malgorzata Rusewicz, Polish Employer Representative, Lewiatan**

**Alexey Vovchenko, Deputy Director, Federal Service on Labour & Employment, Russian Federation**

#### **12.00- 12.45 The new labour market reality.**

Whilst 'atypical employment' is becoming more common it is at odds with employee social protection and the benefits found with standard employment relationships. Why is the Commission fostering the idea of a single 'open-ended' contract, when we need to be clear that we have good and fair governance of the labour market.

12.45 – 14.15 Lunch exhibition area

14.15 – 15.15 **The European Year of Active Ageing** As we approach 2012 our thoughts will turn to the sustainability of jobs for this increasing proportion of the population. Governments must remove

barriers to using this group's potential. As pensions become weaker how will this group achieve financial stability? What re-training opportunities are available and how accessible are they?

**Steve Bainbridge, Senior Expert, CEDEFOP**

15.30 – 16.15 **'Innovation Union' aims to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation.** The newly launched 'Microfinance Facility' is part of the initiative to provide entrepreneurs and vulnerable groups with loans to set up their own businesses/ to bring ideas to market. How is this being managed and who benefits? What contribution are 'green' jobs bringing to the area of innovation?

16.30 – 17.30 **Youth Unemployment – from policy to solutions.** Hear of some of the practical solutions helping to overcome this critical issue. Different countries have different approaches; you will gain some useful ideas and solutions to assist you.

**Greg Ashmead, Managing Director INGEUS Global Operations**

## Day 2

09.00 - 10.00 **Using employment as a route out of poverty, through active inclusion strategies.**

All countries have issues in breaking the generational cycle of poverty – breaking the mindset of 'it's ok not to work'. Child poverty is a key concern, as is the integration of minority groups.

**Egbert Holthuis, Head of Unit, Social Protection and Social Inclusion, DG Employment**

**Conny Reuter, Secretary General of Solidar**

10.15 -11.00 **Structural Reform is essential if the EU is to compete at G20 level.** When we take a look at the lowest end of the labour market it is apparent that changes must be made. What is preventing structural reform? Why aren't good jobs being created? We need to create universal systems to help prevent segmentation of the workforce. Failure to act will lead to output declining in the EU, particularly as our population ages and needs increasing support. The mismatch in supply and demand of skilled workers in the EU is an increasing problem and we must redress the balance if we are to maintain our economic wellbeing.

**Commissioner Ollie Rehn (tbc), DG Economics and Financial Affairs,**

**Duncan Campbell, Director of Labour Market, ILO**

**Moderator: David White, Honorary Director General, European Commission**

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee in exhibition area

11.30 – 12.30 **Flexicurity - a new momentum.** Following on from the special stakeholder Flexicurity Conference, we take the opportunity to hear why only a common approach by EU Institutions to the key components of flexicurity will result in success.

**Santiago Loranca-Garcia, Head of Unit, Employment Strategies, DG Employment**

**Steven D'Haeseleer, Director, Social Affairs, BusinessEurope.**

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch in exhibition area

14.00 –14.45 Plenary Session. **László Andor, Member of the European Commission and responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion** will address the audience and take questions from the floor.

**15.00 – 15.30 Closing plenary? Moderator with 3 speakers who have been present and are able to articulate their views on previous 2 days proceedings.**