

WILL WE SUCCEED IN IMPLEMENTING THE MOBILITY PACKAGE IN PRACTICE?



Few initiatives of the European Commission have caused so much emotion as did the mobility package. The European Commission proposal from 31st May focuses on several areas that caused troubles in the recent months not only to Czech carriers. These include, in particular, the issue of the posting of the road transport workers. Representatives of the European institutions, business organizations, carriers' associations and the general public discussed the social aspects in the field of road transport and the new rules proposed by the mobility package in the European House in Prague on 16th June. Nevertheless the package is a great disappointment for the MEP Martina Dlabajová (ALDE / ANO 2011), the shadow rapporteur for the report on the revised posting directive. She also pointed out that the new rules on

posting would increase the administrative burden on businesses. Moreover, she cannot imagine how the new rules will work in practice. Vladimír Starosta, President of ČESMAD BOHEMIA z.s., welcomes the Commission's efforts to restrict the functioning of letter-box companies that have long disturbed the European market. However, there are many pitfalls in the European Commission's which will be difficult to implement in the practice. "Whether it is the obligation to pay the posted workers the minimum wage of the state in which they are moving or the duty to spend rest time outside the truck cabin, I am afraid that for many companies the new rules will be liquidating," Starosta pointed out. According to him, the package breaks the principles of a single market and supports the creation of a multi-speed Europe.

MEPs CORNER



"From the very beginning I called for the transport sector to be excluded from the new rules for posted workers. The transport sector is highly mobile, so it should have its own special rules for posting workers."

Martina Dlabajová,

Member of Employment Committee, European Parliament MEP Corner

EU AND JAPAN STRENGTHEN TIES

On the 6th of July, the EU and Japan reached a political agreement in principle on the Economic Partnership Agreement. The free trade agreement (FTA) will remove the majority of existing tariffs that sum up to a total of approximately 1 billion EUR that European companies have to pay when doing business with Japan. Furthermore, both partners agreed to respect strict standards concerning labor, safety, environmental protection, consumers and also protection of personal data. Apart from that, the agreement includes chapters on sustainable development. The European Commission expects that the value of EU exports could increase by up to 20 bn. EUR. The agreement is also important from another perspective. In the situation when global protectionist tendencies are rising, the FTA shows that international cooperation and

opening of markets is the way forward. European business community welcomed the political agreement and called on the negotiating sides to finalize the pending issues as soon as possible and with a high level of ambition. The main areas of concern are the non-tariff barriers (NTBs) that European companies often referred to as a barrier to trade. This is the case especially for the European car manufacturers that underline the need to resolve the remaining NTBs and set up a mechanism that would prevent future NTBs from arising. Given the strategic importance of car industry for the Czech Republic, Czech business and employers' organizations stress that NTBs in the car sector as well as the rules of origin need to be fully resolved before the negotiations are finalized so that the FTA bring as much benefits for both sides as possible.

CEBRE was founded in 2002 by the three most important Czech business organizations - Czech Chamber of Commerce, Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic, Confederation of Employers' and Entrepreneurs' Associations of the Czech Republic with kind support of the Ministry of Industry and Trade via its Trade promotion agency CzechTrade.



News FLASH

>EASIER CONDITIONS FOR INVESTORS

Czech Government approved the faster authorization procedure for foreign entities for the purpose of investing (from 3 months to 30 days). From August, the approved minimum investment for non-EU companies will amount to at least CZK 75 million with minimum 20 created jobs.

>NEW EU STATE SECRETARY

Aleš Chmelař became a new State Secretary for EU Affairs at the end of June. The office was empty since February, when his predecessor Tomáš Prouza left the office.

>CZECH REPUBLIC HAS HIGHEST JOB VACANCY RATE

The Czech Republic recorded the highest job vacancy rate in the EU in Q1 2017 of 3.1%, while both EU28 and euro area reached 1.9%.

>CZECH REPUBLIC GROWING FAST

According to Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, Czech economy recorded the highest growth rate (+2.5%) in the second quarter of 2017 in the whole EU. The EU average was +0.7%, while the average growth pace of the euro zone was +0.6%.

INCREASED ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGET WILL COST US HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS

Czech industry has serious concerns about the impact of the draft directives and regulations on market design and energy efficiency. CEBRE founders state in a joint declaration that the proposals bear risks for industry, energy availability, stability and security. Increasing the energy savings target to 30% by 2030 may cost the Czech Republic hundreds of billions CZK. The common position was presented by Czech business representatives on September 8th at a meeting with the Czech eurodeputies, who will vote on the legislative proposals in the coming months. "We

demand greater flexibility for Member States to achieve annual energy savings, non-discriminatory access to capacity mechanisms, and we refuse the provision of regional operational centers," say the representatives of the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic, the Czech Chamber of Commerce and the Confederation of Employers' and Entrepreneurs' Associations of the Czech Republic (CEBRE founders). Furthermore, they insist on lifting the exemptions from liability for deviation and the abolition of price caps and thresholds in the wholesale market.

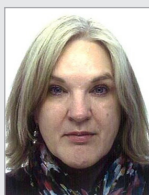


EESC CORNER – PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA



Respect for communications is a fundamental right recognised in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Content of electronic communications may reveal highly sensitive information about the end-users involved in the communication. Similarly, metadata derived from electronic communications may also reveal very sensitive and personal information. Electronic communications networks have expanded considerably since Directives 95/46/EC and 2002/58/EC on the protection of privacy of natural and legal persons in the electronic communications sector. However, it is above all the appearance of new players in the data-processing sector, over and above internet access providers, which must lead to a review of the relevant texts. Big Data has become a currency, and the smart processing thereof means that natural and legal persons can be "profiled", their data "marketed" and money made, often without a user's knowledge. Data being generated continuously means that all users are traceable and identifiable everywhere. Data processing carried out in centres which are mostly located physically outside Europe is a cause for concern. The Committee welcomes the fact that a coherent package of rules is being put in place simultaneously throughout the EU to protect the rights of natural and legal persons linked to the usage of digital data by means of electronic communications. On the other

hand, each Member State remains responsible for data retention and transfer, and there is no harmonisation because of possible restrictions on rights introduced by the proposal. The Committee points to the risk of disparities resulting from the fact that such restrictions would be at the discretion of Member States. Also it regrets that the proposal is voluminous and entangled, highly complex and difficult to read. Its added value is not evident to the public. A large set of recommendations is presented in the Opinion to be taken into account by the Commission, amongst others that priorities linked to this regulation should include the education of users as well as anonymization and encryption. The EESC also advocates the creation of a European portal where all the European and national texts, rights, appeals procedures, case law and practical aspects are brought together in one place and kept up to date so as to help the public at large and consumers to find their way through the maze of texts and practices so they can exercise their rights. It also recommends that a factsheet is published online with a description of the texts for the general public which makes them accessible for everyone.



Marie Zvolská,
EESC Member, Group I -
Employers

CEBRE CALENDAR:

- **25th September** – Debate on Consumers rights (Brussels)
- **27th September** – Debate on Post 2020 EU Financing of R&D in aviation (Brussels)
- **6th October** – Debate on Future of EU Budget (Prague)
- **10th October** – Debate on EU FTAs with Vietnam and Japan (Brno)
- **10th October** – Seminar on European Fund for Strategic Investments (Brno)
- **17-18th October** – Trade mission to Belgium (Brussels, Antwerp)
- **20th October** – Debate on Future of EU car industry – TBC (Prague)
- **10th November** – Meeting with MEPs on future of the EU (Prague)
- **21st November** – Sector seminar on Energy in EU External Aid (Brussels)



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