

Joint Declaration

In the framework of the informal social dialogue between EPAN and TUNED both sides came to the following conclusions during their discussions at the joint seminar held in Vienna on 29 May 2006.

Pursuant to the first joint seminar held in Gateshead in December 2005 Austria has introduced the theme of Mobility in the first semester of 2006 for substantive discussion between Directors General and the trade union delegation. This topic respects both the work of the EPAN Human Resources Working Group and complements the European Year of Workers' Mobility 2006. During an informal consultation process the trade union delegation agreed to hold a further joint seminar on this topic in Vienna in May 2006 and to jointly prepare this seminar during the second Troika Secretariat Meeting in Vienna in March 2006 as a further contribution to an improved European informal social dialogue.

Thus, the joint seminar especially focused on two issues concerning Mobility:

- European Year of Workers' Mobility 2006 – Mobility (geographical and occupational), Portability of Social Rights in the European Labour Market
- Cross-border mobility of national administration workers

The presentations during the seminar highlighted the progress in the legal framework and administrative practice in the implementation of the EU workers' right to cross-border mobility in the national administrations of the Member and Accession States. It also displayed initiatives on the European level to foster mobility and remove obstacles as well as the importance of jointly developing measures for the benefit of employees, employers and quality administrations. These stimulated valuable discussions within the informal social dialogue.

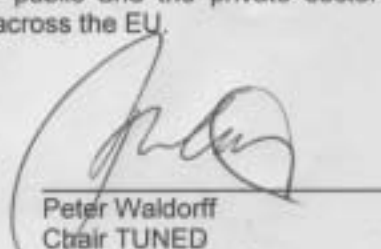
Directors General and the trade union delegation are aware that Europe needs to adapt to population ageing, rapid structural change and globalisation and that public administrations play an essential role as employers and guarantors of the general interest. In this context the revised Lisbon Strategy highlights, among other policies, the importance of mobility of workers within and across Member States for improving the growth and employment. With the campaign of the European Year of Workers' Mobility 2006 the Commission promotes mobility in many practical ways such as through establishing the EURES Portal but also through making progress in removing obstacles for mobility and developing a framework on competences, skills and qualifications and other workers' rights. There are a number of actions on the Community level relevant for this aim including the coordination of social security across Member States and the proposal for a Directive on the Portability of occupational pension rights. Many of these issues are also relevant for those responsible for public employment, notably as the public sector is undergoing change and mobility is becoming a more and more integral part of working life, also of those working in the public sector.

Directors General and the trade union delegation acknowledge the conclusions drawn in the study on Cross-Border Mobility of Public Sector Workers presented by the Austrian Presidency and encourage all public administrations and social partners in the Member States to further improve, jointly, the legal framework of mobility of public sector workers, taking due account of the civil service specificities.

They recognise that improving the quality of mobility goes hand in hand with investment in jobs on all levels of the Member States in both the public and the private sector as a guarantee for territorial, social and economic cohesion across the EU.



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Chair EPAN



Peter Waldorff
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29 May 2006
Vienna