



## **EPSU / CEMR-EP joint statement on employment**

*Joint Press Release, 3 June 2005*

The Employers' Platform of the Council of European municipalities (CEMR-EP) and the European Federation of Public Services Union (EPSU) have called on the EU institutions to put a greater emphasis on the role of the social partners at local and regional level, in the implementation of the integrated guidelines for growth and jobs, on 3 June 2005.

In a joint survey on their members' participation in the European employment strategy, EPSU and CEMR found that in most European countries, there are no mechanisms to involve sectoral social partners in the design and the implementation of national action plans for employment.

CEMR-EP and EPSU welcome the integrated approach of the 2005-2008 guidelines, but regret that they have a narrow view of the role of local public services and services of general interest (SGIs). CEMR-EP and EPSU challenge the view that public authorities' role should be to intervene only in the event of market failure. The market alone cannot ensure that citizens and companies are provided with access to quality services. Putting local public services at the heart of the employment strategy will help provide solutions to the problems identified in the integrated guidelines.

However, financial resources of local government must evolve in accordance with the costs of delivering their services. Budgetary restraints must not restrict the capacity of local and regional government to foster more and better jobs, and to invest in public infrastructures.

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*Joint statement on employment agreed by the employment workshop available on EPSU website at the following link <http://www.epsu.org/a/1180>.*