



HEADLINES

EU / SOCIAL Brussels 20/06/2001: Quality indicators for jobs and labour markets

The EC proposals follow the Lisbon Council where long term investment in human resource capital was high on the political agenda and the Social Agenda approved in Nice where the European social model, a (so called) quality-based model, was one of the main priorities. The quality indicators should complement the already existing quantitative targets of the European Employment Strategy and its annual review. The policy method chosen is again via benchmarking and best practices (governments, social partners and non-government organisations). The Belgian Presidency of the European Council, starting on the 1st of July 2001, intends to approve the proposal during the European Summit of Laeken in December. Proposed job indicators are: job satisfaction, remuneration, non-pay rewards, working time, skills and training prospects, and job content. Proposed work environment/labour market indicators are: gender equality, health and safety at work, flexibility and security of employment, access to jobs, work/life balance, social dialogue and worker involvement, diversity, and non-discrimination.

More info: http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2001/jun/152_en.html

EU / E-COMMERCE Brussels 25/06/2001: Euro Info Centres (EICs) to promote GoDigital

From September 2001 onwards, the EICs will launch a campaign for SMEs on how to implement electronic business, in connection with the GoDigital action plan (see ESBA Weekly - Vol 3 - N 15). Foreseen activities include: workshops on practical aspects and advice on strategic aspects of e-business; web sites; partner search services; and hotline services. Each national campaign will provide a targeted range of services, tailored to the needs of SMEs in the respective country.

More info: <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ecommerce/godigital/EICebusinesscampaign.htm>

EU / FINANCE Brussels 26/06/2001: Capital adequacy: Revision postponed to 2005

The European Commission has welcomed an announcement from the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision that, following responses (see ESBA Weekly - Vol 3 - N 17) to its proposals to revise the 1998 Capital Accord, it will extend its timetable for revision and implementation of the new Accord to 2005, with an additional round of consultation in early 2002. The Basel Committee decided to make further efforts to ensure that the new proposals deliver an appropriate treatment of credit exposures related to SMEs. This is likely to lead to lower capital requirements for lending to such businesses than would have resulted from the proposals contained in the Committee's January 2001 consultation paper.

IT SEEMS THAT THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY ALL SMEs ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING ESBA, ON THE TIGHT CONSULTATION SCHEDULE HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR THE MOMENT. ESBA HOPES THAT THIS EXTENSION OF THE CONSULTATION TIME WILL GIVE SMEs THE OCCASION TO BE MORE FULLY INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF ANOTHER DRAFT NEW CAPITAL ACCORD BY THE BASEL COMMITTEE ON BANKING SUPERVISION

ESBA Bulletin of 29 June 2001 – Volume 3 – Number 29

EU / SINGLE MARKET Brussels 28/06/2001: EC consultation on modernising internal market

The consultation of business stakeholders should identify remaining obstacles to the free movement of goods in the EU and explore how best to adapt regulatory tools to innovation and technological change. The consultation should focus on three main issues: enhancing the current technical harmonisation arrangements for industrial products, managing the internal market acquis, and developing a new Community approach to fast-changing sectors. The consultation will use the recently launched Interactive Policy Making Mechanism (See ESBA Weekly - Vol 3 - N 19). The Commission will publish the consultation findings and draw up an action plan to address business concerns before the end of 2001 still.

More info & questionnaire: <http://www.europa.eu.int/BFM/consultation/index.cfm>