

Employment



PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
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Unemployment is a major concern for European citizens. Despite the slowdown of the world economy, the European Union (EU) has been able to create five million new jobs and to reduce unemployment by two million since 1997. Still, approximately 14 million people are out of work in the entire Union.





European Union




Employment is a Common Concern

The European Employment Strategy (EES) was launched in 1997. The EES makes employment a matter of common concern and an explicit goal for the EU.

In 2000, the Union set itself the goal of full employment and creating more and better jobs. This implies:

- continuous training and life-long learning;
- a substantial increase in employment by creating 20 million new jobs by the year 2010;
- increasing the quality of employment.

The introduction of a common currency - the Euro - has created the basis for strengthening the co-ordination of monetary and economic policies. It has, in particular, reduced the risk of short-term economic downturns. Stronger co-ordination of economic policies will set a firm foundation for stability in the European labour market.





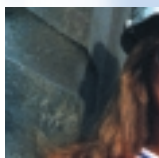
European Socialists



Fighting for Full Employment

For European Socialists, the fight against unemployment is not enough. As such, European Socialists advocate full employment. For an inclusive Europe, the emphasis should not only be on job-creation but also on integrating less advantaged groups in the labour market, such as young and older people, women, disabled and minority groups in the population. Integration must also consider concerns related to family life and special attention must be given to less advantaged regions.

To fulfil the goal of full employment and the creation of more and better jobs, the EU needs to push for more quality jobs as well as to ensure everyone's right to life-long learning.





Future Benefits



Full Access

to the Labour Market for All

The Iron Curtain fell more than a decade ago. Yet, the stringent restrictions on free movement of workers from Central and Eastern European countries still remain. The removal of these barriers will mark great changes in the European labour market.

After accession, the future Member States will fully participate in the European Employment Service (EURES) and the European Social Fund (ESF). EURES currently aims to facilitate the free movement of workers within 17 countries - the EU, Iceland and Norway - while the ESF is, along with other policies, tackling long-term unemployment.

The preliminary phase for full implementation of EURES and ESF is now underway. The future Member States are already participating in bilateral co-operation projects with current Member States in providing opportunities to work abroad.

An enlarged Europe with full employment is an achievable reality - a Europe which brings well-being not only to its own Member States but to neighbouring countries as well.





To find out more about what European Socialists are doing in the area of employment, please consult the websites below:



PES Group:

<http://www.socialistgroup.org>

PES:

<http://www.pes.org>

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