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EURES (EUROPEAN employment services) portal

The Council reached a general approach on a regulation which establishes new rules improving the efficiency of EURES and strengthening cooperation between the member states ([16333/14](#) + [16333/14 COR1](#)).

The president of the Council, Giuliano Poletti, stated "Today we complied with the call of the European Council for turning the EURES portal into a true European placement and recruitment tool and I am glad that such an ambitious step was taken under the Italian presidency. Labour mobility within the EU is an important factor to tackle unemployment, especially youth unemployment."

The reformed EURES network enhances assistance to workers in overcoming barriers to mobility, increases access to employment opportunities throughout the EU and facilitates job creation by helping to match supply and demand better in the labour market.

The aim is to strengthen the capacity of the existing EURES network so that it becomes more accessible and user-friendly for EU citizens.

The final Council text followed the Commission proposal on opening up the network to private partners, however it obliges profit-making employment agencies to provide all the core services provided for in the regulation. This will substantially increase the pool of vacancies.

Member states have to set up an admission procedure, but retain some flexibility to adapt it to their national systems; public employment services are given a privileged status in line with their special role and national obligations;

Workers and employers with good prospects of finding a job or filling a post will receive tailor-made assistance in addition to general information.

An automated system to match vacancies with job applications, by coordinating national classifications with the European classification of skills/competences, qualifications and occupations (ESCO), will help both workers and employers to fulfil their expectations. The final compromise includes a new implementing act on the adoption and updating of a selected list of skills/competences and occupations that can be covered by the EURES network, which will give member states a formal say on the adoption of the list.

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1/2

Apprenticeships and traineeships are included in the scope of the regulation, but limited to those outside educational or vocational curricula and training or those funded publicly as part of the member state's active labour market policies.

The final text also provides for a one-year derogation from the admission procedure for the existing EURES partners to ensure a smooth transition from the old to the new legislative framework.

The European Parliament has not yet delivered its position at first reading.
