



European Commission Conference on
"Exploiting the employment potential of personal and household services"

Brussels, 30 and 31 January 2013

DRAFT AGENDA

Venue:

Crowne Plaza Brussels - Le Palace
Rue Gineste 3,
B-1210 Brussels - Belgium
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30 January 2013

13.30-14.30 Registration and welcome coffee

14.30-14.45 Opening speech

- László Andor, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

14.45-15.30 Presentation of the conference and the overview study

- Jean-François Lebrun, Adviser, and Patricia Pedelabat-Lartigau, policy officer, Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission, Synthesis of the public consultation on personal and household services
- Nicolas Farvaque, ORSEU, study on "overview of the personal and household services in the EU"

15.30- 16.30 Concept of personal and household services

The concept of personal and household services (PHS) covers a variety of services (cleaning, ironing, remedial classes, gardening, ICT support, childcare (CC), long-term care (LTC) for the elderly and people with disabilities ...). It is important to identify similarities and differences, as well as complementarities in between these various services, taking into account their specificities, since some are social services (of general interest). This is necessary in order to assess the pertinence of common policy approaches for the development to such services.

Chair: Jean-François Lebrun, Adviser, European Commission

Speakers:

- Michel Mercadié, Social Platform
- Freek Spinnewijn, Social Services Europe
- Marie Béatrice Levieux, French Federation of Household Employers (FEPEM)
- Werner Eichhorst, Institute for the Study of Labor, Germany

16.30-17.00 Coffee break

17.00-18.30 Demand for personal and household services

Personal and household services are often mentioned as a possible answer to a better work-life balance, achieved through an increased externalisation of daily domestic tasks by households to service providers. The demand for care and household services is likely to increase because of population ageing in most Member States, and because the female employment rate is expected to go up.

Chair: Marian Harkin, MEP, European Parliament

Speakers:

- Denis Stokkink, Think Tank Européen "Pour la Solidarité", "The increasing demand for care in the European context of ageing"
- Madeleine Starr, Carers UK
- Jean Pierre Saint Germain, the experience of the cooperative SPAD (Service Présence et Aide à Domicile) in France
- Greger Bengtsson, Swedish situation on use of vouchers

Discussion

18.30-19.30 Cocktail

31 January 2013

08.30-09.00 Welcome coffee

09.00-10.30 Role of the State in subsidising personal and household services

Without public support, formal employment in PHS is quite costly for the majority of the population and the formal market for PHS is limited. Therefore public authorities can consider intervening with the aim of encouraging the provision of PHS in the formal economy. On the basis of several studies we can see the positive return effects of these public interventions which indicate that there is potential for job creation in PHS with a low cost for public finances. In this context, the issue of accessibility for disadvantaged users to services whose demand is supported through vouchers should be addressed; the impact of insuring access for disadvantaged users on the financial viability of voucher systems should be analysed.

Chair: Jan Vanthuyne, Federal Public Service of Employment (SPF Emploi), representing the Council (EMCO committee)

Speakers:

- Jan Vanthuyne, Federal Public Service of Employment (SPF Emploi), evaluation report on "Service vouchers for services and proximity employment in Belgium"
- Olivier Peraldi, Federation of Service for Individuals, & Guillaume Thibault, Cabinet Oliver Wyman, "Personal services: economic situation and growth stakes in France"
- Aurélie Decker, European Federation for Services to Individuals & Daphne Valsamis, IDEA consult, study "Why invest in employment? A study on the cost of unemployment"
- Luk Zelderloo, European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities

Discussion

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.30 New technologies and productivity

Externalisation of personal and household services, from households to services providers, could improve the productivity of such activities due to better use of technologies and investment in training. New technologies can help informal carers/family employed carers in improving knowledge, skills and competences in care provision. New technologies can also improve the working conditions and the satisfaction of carers with their jobs. Robotics will be in the future more developed for households and could be at the service of sick people, disabled and elderly.

Chair: Antonello Pezzini, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee

Speakers:

- Carretero Gomez Stephanie, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS), "CARICT Study: 52 good practises on ICT for informal care in 12 EU countries"
- Michele Debonneuil, Caisse des dépôts et consignation, France
- Silas Olsson, HealthAccess, an overview of technologies for informal carers, Sweden
- Jean-Marie Vanhove, Representative of Social Service Europe and EASPD

Discussion

12.30-13.30 Light lunch

13.30-15.00 Working conditions and standards

To ensure quality services, workers should have a stable employment with a minimum of working hours, the right skills as well as good working conditions. Higher level of professionalism in PHS is necessary to ensure quality and productivity gains (e.g. an amelioration of technical competences). The quality of the services themselves is crucial in particular for child and elderly care as well as the quality of jobs for the service provider. Public intervention could therefore guarantee appropriate standards concerning the quality of jobs and services.

Chair: Rudi Delarue, Director, EU Office, International Labour Organisation

Speakers:

- David Richardson, Age UK, project "My Home life"
- Daniel Molinuevo, Eurofound, research on home care services for people with disabilities
- Anita Lundberg, Swedish Municipal Workers Union
- Baptiste Lenfant, IPERIA, "Film on vocational training for personal and household services workers – testimonies"

Discussion

15.00-15.30 Closing

- Director General, European Commission, Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (TBC)