

EFSI and the European agenda

The European Federation for Services to Individuals (EFSI) brings national federations and associations as well as companies involved in the development of personal and household services in Europe. Those services include housework services, childcare facilities, tutoring, and services to enable disabled, dependents and elderly people to continue to live in their own home. Through its members, EFSI is present in 22 EU Members' States¹. Since 2008, EFSI took part in the European debate on several issues and worked at a better recognition of the personal and household services sector.

In April 2012, EFSI welcomed the European Commission recognition of the job creation potential of personal and household services. It believes that a better recognition and understanding of the sector at the European Union level will lead to an increased support for the development of the personal and household services sector at national level. In its answer to the **public consultation**² on the **job creation potential of personal and household services**, EFSI stressed the need to design supporting measures which are financially manageable over the long-term and which contribute to a decrease of informal work. This is all the more necessary in a context of rising demand for personal and household services due to the demographic challenges shares by all Member States. Especially, EFSI invited the European Commission :

- to set up a **European Alliance for personal and household services**, with the aim to share the best of policymaking and to foster cooperation and mutual learning in the field. This European Alliance should bring together EU and government representatives as well as academics, services providers and users representatives,
- to ensure a comprehensive and transversal approach of personal and household services among European Institutions' directorates,
- to mobilize structural funds to help national public authorities to develop innovative solutions fostering the development of personal and household services.

In January 2013, EFSI is taking part in the European conference on personal and household services held in Brussels. In particular, it will intervene in the roundtable dedicated to the role of the State in subsidizing personal and household services.

At the end of 2013, EFSI will hold the **5th European Conference on personal and household services**.

¹ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, United-Kingdom.

² EFSI's answer to the public consultation is available on : http://www.efsi-europe.eu/fileadmin/MEDIA/publications/position_paper_PHS_public_consultation.pdf