

EFSI CALLS FOR EU ACTIONS TO TACKLE UNDECLARED WORK IN THE PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD SERVICES SECTOR

BRUSSELS, 16 June 2015: On the occasion of the International Day of Domestic Workers, the European Federation for Services to Individuals (EFSI) reiterates its call for a sector-specific approach within the future EU Platform on undeclared work targeting one million of personal and household services (PHS) workers currently working illegally¹.

Indeed across Europe, undeclared work dominates the personal and household services sector. While the European Agenda plans to improve more and better jobs, approximately 7 million Europeans purchase home cleaning services on the undeclared market, 2.3 million use home babysitting services and another 1.4 million purchase assistance services for a dependent or elderly relatives². *“This situation is the result of a lack of appropriate legal framework ensuring affordable access to formal employment in the sector”*, stresses EFSI’s Director Aurélie Decker. *“The prevalence of undeclared economy in the sector is extremely damaging primarily to the domestic workers and to the State but also to the users themselves”*, she added.

This is why, few days prior to the first trilogue meeting, EFSI calls on European decision-makers to make the fight against undeclared work in the PHS sector one of the priorities of the future European Platform on undeclared work. Thus, it strongly supports the European Parliament’s will that the future Platform should deal jointly with deterrence, commitment and compliance-oriented approaches, given that the latest has proven to be the most effective to specifically overcome undeclared domestic work.

Finally, EFSI stresses that fighting undeclared work should go hand in hand with measures enhancing working conditions and professionalization in order to make formal employment more attractive for both workers and employers. *“We have observed a virtuous circle in countries which have made PHS more affordable to every citizen, as these measures in turn contributed to a significant improvement of working conditions. In this regard, frameworks such as the Borloo Plan in France, the Belgian Services vouchers or the RUT-avdraget tax deduction in Sweden have proven their effectiveness”*, concludes Aurélie Decker.

¹ European Commission, Staff Working Document on exploiting the employment potential of the personal and household services, April 2012, page 8.

² EFSI own calculation based on Eurostat and European Commission data, 2014. These projections may underestimate the real situation.

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As the European Federation for Services to Individuals, **EFSI** is the representative body of national federations and associations as well as companies involved in the development of personal and household services in Europe. Through its members, EFSI is present in 22 EU Members' States.

For more information: www.efsi-europe.eu