

## **EFSI CALLS FOR A RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW EUROPEAN RECOMMENDATIONS ON PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD SERVICES**

**BRUSSELS, 17 September 2015: EFSI welcomes the publication today, by the European Commission, of a thematic review on the personal and household services<sup>1</sup> (PHS) sector. Focusing in particular on the situation in Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, the report<sup>2</sup> explores the issues of job creation, employability and professionalization of PHS policies and states recommendations.**

Conducted by the European Employment Policy Observatory (EEPO) on request of the European Commission, the report reveals that the PHS sector represents 7.3 million workers throughout the European Union. It also highlights that with more than 155 000 new jobs created between 2011 and 2013 throughout Europe, PHS is the second fastest growing employment sector behind ICT.

*“The benefits generated by the PHS sector are numerous not only in term of job creation but also as regards women’s social inclusion, low-skilled employment and training, work-life balance and society’s ageing”* emphasises EFSI’s Director Aurélie Decker. *“EEPO’s recommendations are welcome but more than ever we need a strong commitment of the European Commission towards their implementation”*, she added.

Among the recommendations brought forward by the EEPO, it is worth noting the development of a EU quality framework for PHS to improve accessibility and quality of the services ; an in-depth involvement of the Employment Committee (EMCO) to favour ILO Convention No 189 ratification and implementation ; or targeted actions to foster the transfer from the shadow to the formal economy in PHS through the future European Platform on undeclared work.

*“A EU strategy for the development of PHS will undoubtedly be an important vector of economic growth and job creation”* concludes Aurélie Decker. Indeed, the PHS sector job creation potential is estimated by the European Commission at 5.5 million new jobs in the coming years<sup>3</sup>. Whereas its development is currently hindered by austerity measures, any public investment in the sector will first and foremost benefit to women, low-skilled workers or long-term unemployed, while tackling major society’s challenges such as population ageing or work-life balance.

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<sup>1</sup> Personal and household services comprise of a broad range of activities that contribute to the well-being of families and individuals which are: home services (housework, ironing, gardening, small repair work, delivery of food, etc.), child care facilities including all kind of services (nursery, nanny, shared childcare, holiday centres, child-minders, baby sitting, etc.), tutoring (school help, IT assistance etc.) and services to enable disabled, dependents and elderly people to continue to live in their own home.

<sup>2</sup><http://ec.europa.eu/social/keyDocuments.jsp?advSearchKey=personal+and+household+services&mode=advancedSubmit&langId=en&policyArea=&type=0&country=0&year=2015>

<sup>3</sup> European Commission (2012), *Staff working document on exploiting the employment potential of personal and household services*, SWD (2012) 95 final.

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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.

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