

EFSI WELCOMES THE CREATION OF THE EUROPEAN PLATFORM AGAINST UNDECLARED WORK AND CALLS FOR A QUICK START OF ITS ACTIVITIES

EFSI's reaction following the adoption of a decision establishing a European platform against undeclared work

BRUSSELS, 9 March 2016: On 9 March 2016, the European Parliament and the Council officially signed the decision establishing a European Platform to enhance cooperation in tackling Undeclared Work. This step formalizes Council's agreement on the decision with the European Parliament, who casted its vote in February.

Since its creation, EFSI has always been advocating for the fight against undeclared work both at national and European levels. In Personal and Household Services (PHS)¹ **undeclared work is an obstacle to fair competition as well as to decent work** and as such it must be removed. *"The entry into force of the Platform sends a positive signal"* said Aurélie Decker, EFSI's Director. *"However, it remains to be seen how it will contribute to tackling undeclared work in Europe in practice"*, she added.

EFSI stresses the importance for the upcoming Platform to take into account the specificities of each sector of activity. In particular, **PHS require a specific approach** in order to reduce the above-average rate of undeclared work occurring in such activities. EFSI highlights the need of a **comprehensive view on the issue of undeclared work** and the importance to analyse and promote integrated policy frameworks, combining the advantages of various measures (e.g. targeted tax reduction and service voucher systems). As a result of the implementation of various fiscal and administrative incentives, undeclared labour in the domestic sector in France went down from 40% in 2005 to 30% in 2011 and from 60% to around 25% in Finland.

EFSI urges the Platform to take into consideration these suggestions when adopting its 2017-2018 work programme. Indeed, **EFSI is ready to engage** with the Platform on this topic.

According to a Eurobarometer survey² conducted in 2013, the **PHS sector is among the most concerned by the phenomenon of undeclared work**, thus hindering businesses' possibility to provide more affordable services. For instance, 15% of interviewees admitted having bought home cleaning services in the black market, 10% of them said to have purchased undeclared gardening services, and

¹ In 2012, the European Commission defined PHS as a "broad range of activities that contribute to well-being at home of families and individuals: child care, long term care for the elderly and for persons with disabilities, cleaning, remedial classes, home repairs, gardening, ICT support, etc.".

² http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_402_en.pdf

the same can be said for healthcare services (8%), home babysitting services (5%) and other PHS services (3%).

Contact: **Aurélie Decker**
Director - EFSI
+32 (0) 2 204 08 73
+32 (0) 473 66 48 69
aurelie.decker@efsi-europe.eu
www.efsi-europe.eu

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.