



POST-ENLARGEMENT CHALLENGES TO THE FREE MOVEMENT OF WORKERS IN THE EU

15th September 2008

Centre for European Policy Studies, CEPS
Place du Congrès 1, 1000, Brussels, Belgium
Conference Room

The free movement of workers has been enshrined as a fundamental principle in the EU from the very first days of the European integration processes. The freedom to move constitutes nowadays a fundamental right which should apply without discrimination to all citizens of the Union irrespective of their country of origin. The 2004 and 2007 enlargements have involved a deep transformation of the nature and scope of the status of European citizenship and the principle of free movement of persons. In respect of all the new Member States' nationals, the right to free movement of persons was immediate. The only delay was in respect of free movement of workers where the pre-2004 member States were allowed to apply transitional arrangements as provided in the Accession Treaties. Many Member States exercised their right to apply these arrangements, and although by 2008 almost all of them have lifted the exceptions for the nationals of those Member States which entered the Union on 1 May 2004, for the 2007 Member States a number of Member States are still applying obstacles to the exercise of the right to move for employment related purposes.

In respect to the A8 workers, this process has had severe consequences on the treatment of economic migrants, raising preoccupation as to the future situation of the A2. This has been evidenced in a research carried out by **Professor Jo Carby-Hall** from the University of Hull who has assessed in an extensive research report the exploitation aspects of economic migration as experienced by A8 workers. The Conference will address these issues as direct consequences of the differential access to the enlarged European labour market and assess the impact this has had on the treatment of A8 workers. Thereafter, the event will also focus on the main shortcomings which need to be addressed in the prospect of opening the labour market to A2 workers.

PROGRAMME

- 12:00 – 12.15 Registration
- 12:15 – 13:00 Buffet Lunch
- 13:00 – 13:15 Welcome and Opening Remarks by **Elsbeth Guild** (CEPS, / Radboud University of Nijmegen / Kingsley Napley, London)
- 13:15 – 13:45 Presentation by **Professor Jo Carby-Hall** (University of Hull)
“The Treatment of Polish and other A8 economic migrants in the European Union Member States”

13:45 – 15:15 **Roundtable 1: The treatment of A8 workers in the EU: Towards the accomplishment of the freedom to move?**

Chair: Sergio Carrera

Janusz Kochanowski (Polish Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection)

Dimitrios Kontizas (European Commission)

Tony Venables (ECAS)

Steven D'Haeseleer (Business Europe)

Hildegard Schneider (University of Maastricht)

Discussant Jo Carby-Hall

Discussion

15:15– 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:30 **Roundtable 2: Opening the EU labour market to A2 workers: Challenges to the equality of treatment**

Chair: Jo Carby-Hall

Adrian Severin (European Parliament)

Adina-Ioana Valean (European Parliament)

Claude Cahn (Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions)

Catelene Passchier (European Trade Union Confederation)

Elsbeth Guild

Discussant Claudia Aradau (Open University)

Discussion