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MEP appointed spokesman on new law on illegal work

- ***“Illegal work can no longer be tolerated” – Simon Busuttil MEP***

MEP Simon Busuttil was appointed as the main spokesperson of the EPP-ED group on a newly proposed law which deals with illegal employment.

The proposed Directive was published by the European Commission a few days ago and will provide for sanctions against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals. It applies in particular to employers who grant illegal work to illegal immigrants.

The law would establish common sanctions against such practices, including fines as well as disqualification from public tender procedures and the recovery of EU funds and state subsidies. In the most serious of cases the law would also provide for criminal penalties. Among others, criminal sanctions would apply in cases of repeated offences, in cases of the employment of a large number of illegal immigrants and in cases where conditions are particularly exploitative.

“I am delighted to have been given this responsibility to help shape this important new law.” Dr Busuttil said. “The EPP-ED group wants to have a determining influence on the shaping of this law.”

“This proposal is as timely as it is important. It will send a clear message to employers that illegal employment can no longer be tolerated. And it will also send an unequivocal message to would-be illegal immigrants that Europe is not a free-for-all. Risking your life to cross to Europe and then end up in modern-day slavery is just not worth it.” he said.

Dr Busuttil said that the law would oblige EU countries to step up their fight against illegal work and strengthen their national enforcement agencies. Currently, on average, just 2% of enterprises are inspected over illegal employment in Europe. But the new law would raise this to 10% per annum.

Illegal work is often concentrated in the construction, agriculture, cleaning and hotel & catering sectors.

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