



10 October, 2007

***“Illegal employment is illegal!”- Simon Busuttil MEP***

MEP Simon Busuttil, EPP-ED shadow rapporteur on the proposed directive on illegal employment, embarked on a series of consultation meetings to obtain the view of stakeholders on the Commission proposal for a Directive providing for sanctions against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals.

A new tool in the Commission's package to combat illegal immigration, the law would prohibit illegal employment of illegal immigrants and provide for tough financial, administrative and criminal sanctions against employers caught breaking the law.

The possibility of finding work, even illegal work, is known to be one of the key factors "encouraging" or "pulling" illegal immigration into the EU.

26 of the 27 EU countries already have sanctions. But these vary greatly and are poorly enforced. Hence the need for a common European law which would send a common coherent signal.

***"This law will send a strong signal to employers and to would-be illegal immigrants alike that Europe is not a free-for-all and that illegal employment is no longer tolerated." Busuttil said.***

***"Illegal employment is illegal. No more, no less." he said.***

Launching a consultation process Dr Busuttil met the Maltese authorities in Valletta in the presence of Malta's Deputy Prime Minister Tonio Borg and Education and Employment Minister Louis Galea.

The consultation process will involve stakeholders, notably employers, trade unions, NGOs and immigrants.

Feedback on the proposal may be sent to MEP Simon Busuttil on:

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A copy of the Commission proposal may be obtained from this weblink:

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2007/com2007\\_0249en01.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2007/com2007_0249en01.pdf)

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