SEMESTER EUROFEDOP

THE (ADDED) VALUE OF PUBLIC SERVICES IN A TIME OF ECONOMIC CRISIS

22-24.10.2009

EUROFEDOP

European Federation of Employees in Public Services

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Bratislava
Slovakia
EUROFEDOP SEMINAR
THE (ADDED) VALUE OF PUBLIC SERVICES IN A TIME OF ECONOMIC CRISIS
BRATISLAVA (SLOVAKIA), 22-24.10.2009

The economic reality of increasing deficits, governments bailing out financial institutions and growing unemployment forces us to rethink Europe’s strategy for jobs and growth. The past 9 years the EU has been working towards the goals of the Lisbon Strategy upon which the leaders of the Member States agreed in Lisbon in 2000. With unemployment growing towards 27 million next year, and a number of 74 million Europeans living below the poverty line, the situation in Europe is far from improving.

In the beginning of this year, when we were all gradually learning more about the scope and nature of the financial and economic crises, President Barroso stressed that: "...the social aspects of the crises are our first concern now...".

This seminar will deal with the question: In times of economic crises, what is the scenario for public services? Some may argue that this is an excellent time to show the added value of public services, since after all we have now seen how ‘the market can fail’.

Others may argue that the government spending billions and billions on financial institutions or industries, in order to keep the balance in the financial world and thus in the national, European and world economy has put major pressure on the future financing of the provision of public services.

Do possible solutions lay in outsourcing tasks typically done by public service institutions? Or in increased cooperation with the private sector through Public Private Partnerships? Or does the crisis create an excellent opportunity for public service reform, and did government and its public service bodies re-gain the trust and faith of its people? Did a mentality change take place, due to the economic crisis? Could innovation boost the public sector, where we not only look at how long a civil servant has worked in the sector, but also at what he/she has done and achieved? How do we maintain, or, improve the quality of public services?

I look forward to seeing you at our seminar in Bratislava.

With best regards.

Bert Van Caelenberg
Secretary General Eurofedop

Thursday, 22.10.2009
14.30 Opening of the seminar
   - Jadranko Vehar, Vice-President of EUROFEDOP
   - Robert Fico, Prime Minister of Slovakia (to be confirmed)
   - Mária Mayerová, President of SLOVES
15.45 Introduction to the seminar themes
   - Bert Van Caelenberg, Secretary General of Eurofedop
16.00 Seminar themes
   - The Lisbon Strategy, what is it
   - A tough economic reality
   - Eurofedop and the EU’s new strategy for growth and jobs
18.30 End of the first day

Friday, 23.10.2009
09.30 Discussion theme 1
   - Moderator: Mária Mayerová, President of SLOVES (Slovakia)
10.30 Discussion theme 2
   - Moderator: Gerrit van de Kamp, President of ACP (The Netherlands)
14.00 Discussion theme 3
   - Moderator: Alain Mazeau, Secretary General of FNACT/CFTC (France)
15.30 General debate on theme 1, 2, 3
17.30 End of the second day

Saturday, 24.10.2009
09.30 Report of the themes per workgroup
10.30 Final session and concluding remarks
   - Fritz Neugebauer, President of Eurofedop
   - N.N., Member of the European Parliament (Slovakia)

Working languages: NE, FR, EN, DE, SK