

**MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF THE
PARLIAMENTS OF LATVIA, ESTONIA, LITHUANIA, THE SENATE AND
THE SEJM OF POLAND**

RIGA

20 March 2006

**JOINT DECLARATION
REGARDING FREE MOVEMENT OF WORKERS
ADOPTED BY THE LATVIAN, ESTONIAN, LITHUANIAN AND
POLISH PARLIAMENTARY EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES**

Free movement of workers and free movement of services are fundamental principles and values of the European Union and are part of the European identity. Any restrictions on these freedoms may result in unused potentials in Europe. Transitional arrangements for citizens of the new Member States continue to create administrative barriers in free movement within the Union. We have to avoid a situation in which new European citizens have restricted rights and possibilities and thus feel excluded and discriminated against.

On behalf of the participants of the meeting, we would like to express gratitude to the governments of Finland, Spain and Portugal for their decision to remove the transitional period for free movement of workers.

We believe that it is in the common interest of all Member States to make the European labour market transparent and responsive to economic needs, to foster flexibility, and to fight illegal workers and undeclared work.

We call on the Member States that are currently applying transitional measures to lift the restrictions as soon as possible if they have not already done so by 1 May 2006. It would be an important political message in this European Year of Workers' Mobility, because it would not only facilitate professional and geographical mobility between individual countries but also enable workers to move freely throughout the entire European Union.