

Explanations of vote

- Report: Gebhardt (A6-0409/2005)

Francisco Assis, Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Paulo Casaca, Fausto Correia, Edite Estrela, Emanuel Jardim Fernandes, Elisa Ferreira, Ana Maria Gomes, Joel Hasse Ferreira, Jamila Madeira and Manuel António dos Santos (PSE), in writing . (PT) The previous Bolkestein Directive has been radically recast, and this represents a clear step forward on the road to achieving an internal market in services.

We voted in favour of the revamped proposal, because we feel that it guarantees balanced progress towards achieving a European internal market for services. We also feel that the exclusion of services of general interest, lotteries and essential health services gives the Directive a better balance.

In its current form, the directive will be good for the Portuguese economy, particularly because the country of origin principle will no longer apply, the opening up of the European services market will create many jobs, and this text will finally put an end to what is known as 'social dumping'.

The directive will lead to a reduction in the inexcusable red tape that exists in various Member States, and the provision of services will be subject to the rules of the country in which the service is provided. The exclusion of temporary work and the lack of interference with the directive on the posting of workers will also help to guarantee balance and social cohesion.

All of these factors led us to vote in favour.