

# High-Skilled Immigration Workshop

Stakeholder Workshop organised by 'Fondation EurActiv'  
**17 April 2008, 12.00 – 14.00**  
IPC, 1 Boulevard Charlemagne, Brussels

When listening to economists, there is little disputing European economies' need not only for a more pragmatic approach to the immigration of high-skilled workers and specialists from countries outside the Union. The question is how Europe can compete with countries presently attracting the lion's share of the world's high-skilled labour force: The US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Switzerland.

Therefore, the EU Commission has tabled a 'Blue Card' proposal, which aims to facilitate and harmonise the admission of highly-qualified migrants to the EU. However, the proposal has already met with harsh criticism by several member states.

In many sectors, work demanding intermediate and increasingly also high skills is already outsourced to countries outside Europe. An increasing number of companies are dislocating their development departments to East-Asian countries. This entails a transfer of knowledge and a decrease of skill-building within Europe.

## PROGRAMME

12.00 – 12.30: Lunch and Networking

12.30 – 13.45: Discussion

Questions to be discussed in this workshop include:

- Which sectors feel the greatest need for high-skilled workers from abroad? In how far is it possible to make assumptions on the present and future need for skilled workers?
- Which legal barriers are currently preventing high-skilled workers from dislocating to the EU? Which changes are needed?
- Which models should Europe propose, given the choice between permanent residence and temporary work permits, between 'Green Card' and 'Blue Card'?
- Should Europe invest in skill-building abroad? Is it for private enterprise or for development help?

13.45 – 14.00 Conclusions

Moderator: Andreas Dietl, Social Europe Section Coordinator, EurActiv.com  
Chair: Christophe Leclercq, Publisher, EurActiv.com

Such workshops are a benefit of membership/partnership with EurActiv. Non members are invited for free for up to two workshops. For further attendance, membership will be requested.

For further questions please contact [accounts@euractiv.com](mailto:accounts@euractiv.com).

### Your EurActiv-Team:

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