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Public

consultation on the 'Proposal to introduce a services passport and address regulatory barriers in the construction and business services sectors'

Les champs marqués d'un * sont obligatoires.

Introduction

The Single

Market Strategy (http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/14007?locale=en) announced several actions to further develop the

market for services. This public consultation will focus on the following interrelated actions:

- 1. Initiative introducing a services passport for key economic sectors;
- 2. Action to address regulatory barriers for key business services and for construction services;
- 3. Action on

insurance requirements for business and construction service providers.

The **business services** sector includes professional,

information and support activities such as accounting services, architectural services and engineering services. The focus of this consultation regarding construction services is on contractors (both general contractors and subcontractors) as well as developers who ultimately sell the construction product but hire contractors to perform the actual work.

The

2006 Services Directive covers a wide range of sectors, such as wholesale and retail, tourism, business services and construction. It excludes sectors such as financial services, network industry and health care. As to the wide range it covers, the Services Directive certainly led to a modernisation of the economy across a variety of sectors.[1]

The Services Directive

obliged Member States to eliminate a number of requirements required for the provision of services in their territory from their legal framework. The Services Directive also obliged Member States to ensure that the provision of services in their territories was only subject to certain requirements such as legal form and shareholding to the extent that these requirements were justified by an overriding reason of general interest and proportionate.

The

Services Directive, in line with the TFEU, established a different regime for providers established in other Member States and providing services exclusively on a cross-border basis. Since these providers are already subject to the legislation of their home Member State, the Services Directive obliged Member States to ensure that cross-border providers that want to provide services in their territory were only subject to requirements justified by the protection of public policy, public security, public health and the protection of the environment to the extent that these requirements were proportionate.

However, despite work on the implementation of the Services Directive, a number of requirements maintained by Member States still create barriers for the provision of services in other Member States. As a result, the effect has been

limited for business services and construction. In 2015, the Commission carried out in-depth reviews of remaining barriers in key business services sectors and the construction sector.[2] Providers in these sectors still face regulatory obstacles such as legal form or shareholding requirements or difficulties in complying with insurance requirements when they provide services in other Member States. As a result, several business services as well as the construction sector show a low level of EU internal market integration.

This

consultation aims to gather views on the need for action to address these obstacles as well as different policy options that could be pursued and their potential impact.

This consultation looks at the matter from the perspective of the providers and users of services and does not deal with employee issues and posting of workers.

The results of this public

consultation will be without prejudice to potential actions that the Commission may wish to take in the future.

As per the Better Regulation principles,

the results of the public consultation will be duly published, so as the responses provided, should the respondents have agreed to publicly disclose their contributions.

The attention of the public is drawn also to

parallel consultations as regards the construction sector [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=8725 (http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=8725)] and forthcoming on regulated professions.

This

questionnaire is divided into different sections which are not dependent on one another. In

light of their interest and experience respondents can choose to reply to one, several or all sections of this questionnaire.

Sections

B.1 and B. 9 are of general interest, sections B.2, B. 4 to B. 6 are likely to be of interest for providers of business and construction sectors and sections B.3 and B. 5 for service recipients in those sectors respectively. Section B. 7 is relevant for insurers for services. Section B. 8 is relevant for national authorities in the area of services. Please click directly on the section (s) of your interest:

- Section B. 1: Questions on services sectors in general (other than business services and construction) [questions 10 to 15]
- Section B. 2: Questions on business services perspective of service providers [questions 16 to 46]
- Section B. 3: Questions on business services – perspective of customers [questions 47 to 52]
- Section B. 4: Questions on construction services perspective of service providers [questions 53 to 77]
- Section B. 5: Questions on construction services – perspective of customers [questions 78 to 82]
- Section B. 6: Questions on insurance perspective of service providers [questions 83 to 96]
- Section B. 7: Questions on insurance perspective of insurers [questions 97 to 100]
- Section B. 8: Questions for national authorities [questions 101 to 107]
- Section B. 9: General questions on scope of the actions [questions 108 to 111]

MI For more details on the Consisce Directive and its implementation, and
[1] For more details on the Services Directive and its implementation, see: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/services-directive/index_en.htm (http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/services-directive/index_en.htm)
[2] For business services, see: http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/13328/attachments/1/translations/en/renditions/native (http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/13328/attachments/1/translations/en/renditions/native)
For construction services, see: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/construction/index_en.htm (http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/construction/index_en.htm)
A - Information about the respondent
*
1. Please
indicate who you are:
○ Company providing services
User of services
○ Consumer association
O Public authority
Business organisation (including associations, chamber of commerce, etc.)
○ Trade union
Research institution/Think tank
Institutions, such as national or regional parliaments
○ Citizen
○ Other
*
3. Please
indicate your place of residence or establishment (main headquarters in case of multinational companies):
○ Austria
Belgium
O Bulgaria
○ Croatia
○ Cyprus
○ Czech Republic
○ Denmark
○ Estonia
○ Finland
○ France
○ Germany
○ Greece
○ Hungary
○ Ireland
○ Italy
○ Latvia
○ Lithuania

0	Luxembourg
0	Malta
0	Netherlands
0	Poland
0	Portugal
0	Romania
0	Slovak Republic
0	Slovenia
0	Spain
0	Sweden
0	United Kingdom
	Country from the EEA
0	Non-EEA country
*4.	
	age indicate whether you have an establishment in Member States other than
	ase indicate whether you have an establishment in Member States other than place where your main headquarters are located:
	Yes
_	No No
•	
5 Ple	ase provide your contact information
	ne of organisation and/or personal name, address, and email
	ress):
	that submissions that are sent anonymously will neither be published nor taken into account.
F	TIEC (European Construction Industry Federation) - E-mail : info@fiec.eu
*6.	
	ald you agree to be contacted by the European Commission for possible
follo	ow-up questions on the basis of your responses?
•	Yes
0	No
*7	
• • •	age indicate your examination's registration number in the Interest
	ase indicate your organisation's registration number in the Interest asparency Register
	rify, click on this link: http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/search.do?locale=en&reset=
	//ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/search.do?locale=en&reset=)
	: If your organisation/institution responds without being registered, Commission will consider its input as that of an individual and will publish it as such.
	answer is "no", or "not relevant", please indicate it also below.
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*8.	
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Rece	eived contributions may be published on the Commission's website, with the tity of the contributor.
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Receident Plea rega pleas acces in acc	tity of the contributor. Asse state your preference with Ard to the publication of your contribution: Be note that regardless the option chosen, your contribution may be subject to a request for access to documents under Regulation 1049/2001 on public Ses to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. In this case the request will be assessed against the conditions set out in the Regulation and Cordance with applicable data protection rules
Receident Pleas rega pleas acces in acc	tity of the contributor. Asse state your preference with Aird to the publication of your contribution: Be note that regardless the option chosen, your contribution may be subject to a request for access to documents under Regulation 1049/2001 on public East of European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. In this case the request will be assessed against the conditions set out in the Regulation and Coordance with applicable data protection rules My contribution may be published under the name indicated; I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that
Receident Pleas regar pleas acces in acc	tity of the contributor. Asse state your preference with Ard to the publication of your contribution: Be note that regardless the option chosen, your contribution may be subject to a request for access to documents under Regulation 1049/2001 on public Ses to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. In this case the request will be assessed against the conditions set out in the Regulation and Cordance with applicable data protection rules

 \bigcirc I do not agree that my contribution will be published at all

*					
9. Which parts of this consultation do you want to reply to? (multip possible)	le choice				
☐ Questions on services sectors in general (other that	n business servic	es and construction	on) [6 question	s in total]	
Questions on business services – perspective of se		-	otal]		
 ☐ Questions on business services – perspective of cu ☑ Questions on construction services – perspective o 			in total]		
☐ Questions on construction services – perspective o	·		-		
Questions on insurance – perspective of service pr		_			
 ☐ Questions on insurance – perspective of insurers [☐ Questions for national authorities [7 questions in the content of the c	-	tal]			
✓ General questions on scope of the actions [4 ques	_				
B.4 - Questions on Construction services - Perspective of se	ervice provid	lers			
<u>I</u> - Internal market for construction services situation	s – Current				
53. Do you carry out any activities in (a) Member State(s) other State?					
 Yes, I provide services cross-border without any period of the control of the contr	nce in (an)other M		such as a branc	h, agency or	
Not applicable					
54. Do you want to offer services in Member State(s) other than your home Member State? What (Multiple choice)	would be your p	referred way?			
$\hfill \square$ No, I do not want to provide services in (an)other M	lember State(s)				
☐ Yes, without establishing any permanent presence			, , , , , , ,		
 ☐ Yes, by establishing a permanent presence in othe ☐ Yes, by establishing a permanent presence in othe incorporated for that purpose) 	r Member States	through a subsidia	ary (a separate l	•	ce)
☐ Yes, by establishing a permanent presence in othe☑ Not applicable	r Member States	tnrough other mea	ans		
Please specify:					
500 caractère(s) maximum					
55. What are the main challenges/issues for construction their services in other Member States?	on service provid	lers to offer			
Please tick the appropriate field, only one choice is allowed per category			I	l	
	Not at all important	Rather not important	Fairly important	Very important	No opinion

Administrative issues (duration of procedures, low level of digitalisation, etc.)	0	•	0	0	0
Regulatory issues (authorisations, registrations, insurance, labour law, tax etc.)	0	0	•	0	0
Barriers from market driven domestic service standards, conformity assessments schemes.	0	0	•	0	0
Cultural specificities (language issues, culture, lack of trust, etc.)	0	0	0	•	0
Insufficient knowledge of targeted market	0	0	•	0	0
Not enough resources to expand to other Member States (staff, capital, etc.)	0	0	•	0	0
Other risks (commercial disputes, payment recovery, etc.)	0	0	0	•	0

Administrative barriers:

56. Which of

the following are important administrative obstacles faced by service providers when they want to provide services in other Member States?

scale: from 1 = "not burdensome" to 5 = "most burdensome"

	1	2	3	4	5	I do not know
Difficulty in accessing the necessary information on rules and procedures applicable in another Member State	0	0	•	0	0	0
Lengthy and complex procedures imposed by national authorities in other Member States to provide services in that Member State	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lack of electronic options to complete procedures imposed by authorities of other Member States to provide services in that Member State	0	0	0	0	0	0
Need to contact several authorities separately in the host Member State in order to provide services in the host Member State	0	0	0	•	0	0
Lack of trust by the host Member States authorities towards authorities and/or service providers of other Member States	0	0	0	0	0	•
Need to present certified or authenticated documents issued in the <u>home</u> Member State in order to complete procedures to provide services in that Member State	0	0	0	0	0	0
Need to present certified or authenticated documents issued in the <u>host</u> Member State in order to complete procedures to provide services in that Member State	0	0	0	0	0	0
Requirements for getting documents translated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (tick box 1 and answer subsequent question)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Please	
--------	--

specify:

500 caractère(s) maximum

Regulatory barriers:

This section asks for views on regulatory barriers faced by contractors (both general contractors and subcontractors) as well as developers who ultimately sell the construction product but hire contractors to perform the actual work. Craft professions are not addressed.

Rules in Member States require construction service providers to have a certain technical/professional capacity always available (degree of experience, hire a certain number of (often qualified) personnel or have certain equipment).

57. Do you consider that this makes it difficult for service providers to provide services cross-border to a Member State that imposes such requirements? Yes, it has important impact Yes, it has some impact No impact at all I do not know
In light of your experience, please provide detailed explanation on how these challenges have affected trade by your company:
500 caractère(s) maximum
Do you consider that this makes it difficult for service providers to set up a branch or an agency in a Member State that imposes such requirements? Yes, it has important impact Yes, it has some impact Rather no impact No impact at all I do not know
In light of your experience, please provide detailed explanation on how these challenges have affected trade by your company: 500 caractère(s) maximum
59. Based on your experience, have such rules slowed down or prevented a possible expansion of your activities into the market of another Member State? Yes No No
Please describe the situation, for example: in which country, how did you deal with the situation, how much time did this take you and how much did it cost. 1 000 caractère(s) maximum
Rules in Member States impose requirements on how a business is structured (e.g. as regards quality management systems) through mandatory certification procedures.
60. Do you consider that this makes it difficult for service providers to provide services cross-border to a Member State that imposes such requirements? Yes, it has important impact Yes, it has some impact Rather no impact No impact at all
○ I do not know

light of your experience, please provide detailed explanation on how these
challenges have affected trade by your company:
500 caractère(s) maximum
61.
Do you consider that this makes it difficult for service providers to set up a
branch or an agency in a Member State that imposes such requirements?
○ Yes, it has important impact
○ Yes, it has some impact
○ Rather no impact
○ No impact at all
○ I do not know
la.
In light of your experience, please provide detailed explanation on how these
challenges have affected trade by your company:
500 caractère(s) maximum
300 caractere(s) maximum
62.
Based on your experience, have such rules slowed down or prevented a possible
expansion of your activities into the market of another Member State?
○ Yes
○ No
○ Not applicable
O Not applicable
Please
describe the situation, for example: in which country, how did you deal
with the situation, how much time did this take you and how much did it
cost.
1 000 caractère(s) maximum
Rules in some Member States impose specific organisational requirements (protective and preventive measures) on construction
service providers to fulfil health and safety standards. These requirements do not relate to health and safety standards that a
company should respect on a construction site, but rather how a construction company is structured to ensure compliance with
such rules.
This may result in a company established in another Member State having to hire a local external health and safety service
provider even though they may already have a well-functioning protective and preventive system in the Member State of
establishment.
63. Do you
consider that this makes it difficult for service providers to provide services
cross-border to a Member State that imposes such
requirements?
O Yes, it has important impact
O Yes, it has some impact
O Rather no impact
No impact at all I do not know.
○ I do not know
In
light of your experience, please provide detailed explanation on how these
challenges have affected trade by your company:
500 caractàra(s) maximum

64.
Do you consider that this makes it difficult for service providers to set up a branch or an agency in a Member State that imposes such requirements?
○ Yes, it has important impact
○ Yes, it has some impact
○ Rather no impact
○ No impact at all
○ I do not know
ln .
light of your experience, please provide detailed explanation on how these challenges have affected trade by your company:
500 caractère(s) maximum
65.
Based on your experience, have such rules slowed down or prevented a possible
expansion of your activities into the market of another Member
State?
○ Yes
○ No
○ Not applicable
Please
describe the situation, for example: in which country, how did you deal
with the situation, how much time did this take you and how much did it
cost.
1 000 caractère(s) maximum
Barriers from national standards:
Authorities may require compliance with a national service standard or national conformity assessment scheme.
Companies established in other Member States may therefore be required to obtain a national certificate based on a national certification scheme for their activities in a host country.
66.
Do you consider that this makes it difficult for service providers to provide
services cross-border to a Member State that imposes such
requirements?
○ Yes, it has important impact
○ Yes, it has some impact
○ Rather no impact
○ No impact at all
○ I do not know
Please
provide additional comments if necessary:
500 caractère(s) maximum
Standardisation and certification may be required by the market, which means that businesses may find it difficult to enter that

67. Do you

market.

consider that this makes it difficult for service providers to provide services

requirements? Yes, it has important impact Yes, it has some impact Rather no impact No impact at all I do not know
○ Yes, it has some impact○ Rather no impact○ No impact at all
○ Rather no impact ○ No impact at all
O No impact at all
Diagram
Please provide additional comments if necessary:
500 caractère(s) maximum
II
II - Need for action and potential policy
<u>objectives</u>
68. Should
there be action at EU level to reduce administrative burden for service
providers who wish to provide services in other Member States?
O Yes, there is need for legislative action at EU level to reduce administrative burden for companies
No, the existing framework and tools (e.g. points of single contact) are sufficientI do not know
69. Should there be action at EU level to make the
regulatory framework easier for service providers who wish to expand their activities to other Member States? Or Yes, there is need for legislative action at EU level to improve regulatory environments for companies Or No, there is no need for additional action Or I do not know
activities to other Member States? Yes, there is need for legislative action at EU level to improve regulatory environments for companies No, there is no need for additional action
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activities to other Member States? Yes, there is need for legislative action at EU level to improve regulatory environments for companies No, there is no need for additional action I do not know III - Policy options and impacts Administrative barriers: 70. Specifically regarding administrative obstacles, what should be the objectives
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activities to other Member States?
activities to other Member States?
activities to other Member States? Yes, there is need for legislative action at EU level to improve regulatory environments for companies No, there is no need for additional action I do not know III - Policy options and impacts Administrative barriers: 70. Specifically regarding administrative obstacles, what should be the objectives of the actions to be taken (if any)? (multiple choice) Improve accessibility of information on rules and procedures applicable in other Member States Reduce complexity and length of procedures imposed by authorities to provide services in other Member States Offer electronic options to complete procedures imposed by authorities to provide services in other Member States Avoid that service providers need to re-submit the same documents several times Enhance trust between authorities in the home and in the host Member State in relation to information about cross-border
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activities to other Member States? Yes, there is need for legislative action at EU level to improve regulatory environments for companies No, there is no need for additional action I do not know III - Policy options and impacts Administrative barriers: 70. Specifically regarding administrative obstacles, what should be the objectives of the actions to be taken (if any)? (multiple choice) Improve accessibility of information on rules and procedures applicable in other Member States Reduce complexity and length of procedures imposed by authorities to provide services in other Member States Offer electronic options to complete procedures imposed by authorities to provide services in other Member States Avoid that service providers need to re-submit the same documents several times Enhance trust between authorities in the home and in the host Member State in relation to applications/notifications by service providers to go cross-border Ensure a closer cooperation between authorities in the home and in the host Member State in relation to applications/notifications by service providers to go cross-border Allow for acceptance of documents issued in the home Member State in order to complete procedures to establish or provide services in other territories Getting more support from authorities in other Member States in order to complete procedures to provide services in their territories
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☐ I do not know
Please specify:
500 caractère(s) maximum
Regulatory barriers: This section asks for views on solutions for regulatory barriers faced by contractors (both general contractors and subcontractors) as well as developers who ultimately sell the construction product but hire contractors to perform the actual work. Craft professions are not addressed.
Which requirements should be addressed in order to ensure that service providers that want to expand to other Member States face fewer obstacles? (multiple choice) Requirements on technical and professional capacity conditions (e.g., requirements to hold a certain degree of experience, hire a certain number of qualified personnel, have certain equipment available, etc.) Organisational health and safety requirements (i.e., requirements on how a construction company is structured to ensure compliance with health and safety standards). Organisational certification requirements (e.g., regarding quality management systems to be respected within a construction company)
☐ Other ☐ None ☐ I do not know
Please specify:
500 caractère(s) maximum
72. Which of the following actions should be taken in order to allow service providers to expand activities to other Member States? (multiple choice)
☐ A company with a particular technical/professional capacity according to the laws of a certain Member State should be accepted by all other Member States
☐ Rules governing technical/professional capacity of a construction company should be harmonised
 ☐ A company with a certified quality management system according to the laws of a certain Member State should be accepted by all other Member States ☐ Rules governing organisational certification (such as quality management systems) in a construction company should be harmonised ☐ Others ☐ I do not know
Please specify:
500 caractère(s) maximum
In case of secondary establishment (branches and agencies), should Member States be allowed to pursue policy objectives such as the protection of health and safety at work and the protection of consumers by imposing safeguards on incoming service providers? (multiple choice) Yes, Member States should be allowed to require from providers established in their territory a local responsible person, qualified in accordance with their laws, to ensure technical/professional capacity Yes, Member States should be allowed to require from providers established in their territory a local responsible person, qualified in accordance with their laws, to ensure quality management

person, qualified in accordance their laws, should be admissible to ensure a s No but rules governing technical/professional capacity requirements for a cons No but rules governing organisational certification (such as quality manageme	struction	comp	and sa any s	hould b	rganisa be harn	ntion nonised
level						
☐ Others						
None						
☐ I do not know						
Please specify:						
500 caractère(s) maximum						
74.						
74. Is there a need to reduce the regulatory burden of rules on for domestic serv	rice					
providers as well? (multiple choice)						
Yes, because it will make it easier for everybody to move within the Single Ma						
☐ Yes, because it will facilitate life of smaller construction companies in this sect	tor					
 ☐ Yes, but this should not happen through EU intervention ☐ No, there is no need for action to change/simplify rules for domestic service presented in the property of the property	rovidoro					
☐ No, there is no need for action to change/simplify rules for domestic service pr	iovideis					
<u>Impact:</u>						
75.						
75. What would be the impact of reducing administrative barriers by for example reducing the complexity and length of procedures to access markets and ensemble to better cooperation between home and host Member States?						
75. What would be the impact of reducing administrative barriers by for example reducing the complexity and length of procedures to access markets and en		2	3	4	5	I do not know
75. What would be the impact of reducing administrative barriers by for example reducing the complexity and length of procedures to access markets and end better cooperation between home and host Member States?	suring	2	3	4	5	
reducing the complexity and length of procedures to access markets and ensibetter cooperation between home and host Member States? scale: from 1 = "no impact" to 5 = "significant impact" It will save costs for service providers that provide services in other Member	suring 1			_	_	know
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What would be the impact of reducing administrative barriers by for example reducing the complexity and length of procedures to access markets and ensibetter cooperation between home and host Member States? Scale: from 1 = "no impact" to 5 = "significant impact" It will save costs for service providers that provide services in other Member States More service providers will offer their services in other Member States It will offer more choice to customers It will increase productivity and competitiveness of the EU business services sector It will increase costs for service providers	1	0 0 0	OOO	0 0 0	0 0 0 0	know O O O O O
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What would be the impact of reducing administrative barriers by for example reducing the complexity and length of procedures to access markets and ensibetter cooperation between home and host Member States? **scale: from 1 = "no impact" to 5 = "significant impact"* It will save costs for service providers that provide services in other Member States More service providers will offer their services in other Member States It will offer more choice to customers It will increase productivity and competitiveness of the EU business services sector It will increase costs for service providers It will increase costs for public administrations Not much will change in practice	1	0 0 0 0 0	OOOO	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	know

technical/professional capacity) for service providers from other Member States?

<u>scale:</u> from 1 = "no impact" to 5 = "significant impact"

	1	2	3	4	5	I do not know
It will save costs for service providers that provide services in other Member States	0	0	•	0	0	0
More service providers will offer their services in other Member States	•	0	0	0	0	0
It will lower prices for customers	0	0	0	0	0	0
It will offer more choice for customers	0	0	0	0	0	0
It will increase productivity and competitiveness	0	0	0	0	0	0
It will increase costs for service providers	0	0	0	0	0	0
It will increase costs for public administrations	0	0	0	0	0	0
It may create an uneven playing field in those markets between providers from other Member States and national providers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not much will change in practice	0	0	0	0	0	0

PI	دما	0

provide additional explanation as regards potential impact in light of your experience:

500 caractère((s) maximum
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77.

What would be the impact of harmonising regulatory requirements for all players in the market?

scale: from 1 = "no impact" to 5 = "significant impact"

	1	2	3	4	5	I do not know
It will save costs for service providers that provide services in other Member States	0	0	0	0	0	0
It will save costs for service providers that provide services in that Member State	0	0	0	0	0	0
More service providers will offer their services in other Member States	•	0	0	0	0	0
More service providers will enter the market in their own Member States	0	0	0	0	0	0
It will lower prices for customers	0	0	0	0	0	0
It will offer more choice to customers	0	0	0	0	0	0
It will increase productivity and competitiveness	0	0	0	0	0	0
It will increase costs for service providers	0	0	0	0	0	0
It will increase costs for public administrations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not much will change in practice	0	0	0	0	0	0
I do not know	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ы	eas	_
	casi	

provide additional explanation as regards potential impact in light of your experience:

500 cs	aractère	(c) m	avimı	ım

Please feel free to add general

comments on this section:

1 000 caractère(s) maximum

B.9 - General

questions on the scope of the actions

108. Which services sectors should be covered by potential action to facilitate cross-border activities through a services passport?

(Please also describe why)

1 000 caractère(s) maximum

The regulatory framework for the free movement of services within the construction industry shoul d be further developed, in order to create a level playing field which promotes fair competition and fair working conditions, as well as in order to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens and obstacles for companies.

However, following several meetings with the Commission's services on the basis of the informatio n provided and of the assessment of our respective national member organisations, the European se ctoral Social Partners for the construction indusstry jointly concluded that it is not possible t o assess the added value of such a foreseen "Services Passport" in respect to the above mentioned

Therefore the European Social Partners do not see any need for nor usefulness in such a "Services Passport" in order to increase the provision of cross-border services and ask the Commission to d rop this initiative for the construction industry.

109

Which business services sectors should be covered by potential action to facilitate cross-border activities through a services passport?

(Please also describe why)

1 000 caractère(s) maximum

110.

Which construction services sectors should be covered by potential action to facilitate cross-border activities through a services passport?

(Please also describe why)

1 000 caractère(s) maximum

The foreseen "Services Passport" is based on a wrong understanding of the specificities and of th e functioning of the construction industry. Contrary to the "traditional" industries, which are b ased on fixed production units and mobile final products, in construction it is exactly the oppos ite, namely a production unit (i.e. the company with its workers) that has to move where the fina 1 product is produced. Therefore, benchmarking construction with other sectors and taking the dif ferences as a reason for having to propose measures to increase its cross-border mobility is an i ncorrect approach. The vast majority of construction companies operate and will continue to opera te mainly at a local/ regional level, not necessarily because of administrative obstacles, but be cause of other barriers such as, for example, the language, technical requirement, cultural diffe rences, customer relations etc.

111. Which services sectors other than business

services and construction should be covered by potential action to address regulatory obstacles?

1 000 caractère(s) maximum

Please feel free to add general comments on this section:

1 000 caractère(s) maximum

As regards questions 68 and 69 of this survey FIEC is in favour of a reduction of unnecessary adm inistrative burden and of improving the regulatory framework for companies. However, the proposed "Yes" answers refer only to a "legislative action at EU level". We consider that an EU legislative action is not necessarily needed and that non-legislative initiatives, both at the EU or at the enational level, could also help reaching these objectives. The type of instrument needed, wheth er legislative or not, and the most appropriate level of intervention, EU or national, must be as sessed on a case by case basis.

Contact

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