

**Ciett welcomes G20 leaders recommendations
and calls for bigger focus on agency work industry**

Brussels, 1 July 2010 - Ciett welcomes the G20 leaders' commitment to a full return to growth with quality jobs, and calls for a greater focus on active labour market policy as recommended by the G20 Labour and Employment ministers at their meeting in April.

"Investment in active labour market policies has been underwhelming since the beginning of the crisis. Co-operation between public employment services and private employment agencies has proven to be very successful in enhancing labour market participation and increasing the rate of transition from unemployment to work," said Denis Pennel, Managing Director, Ciett. *"This would be a simple but effective way to maximize the effectiveness of employment services."*

Developing public private partnerships in employment is crucial for a number of reasons. Labour markets are no longer efficient enough to cope with increasing demands due to the impact of the crisis, demographic changes and limited geographical mobility. Co-operation will maximise the effectiveness of the services provided to job-seekers, as both public and private employment services serve similar groups and have the same final objective: bring as many persons as possible to the labour market.

Initiatives as simple as sharing job vacancies and resources not only maximise efficiencies but are crucial in dealing with the fallout from the financial crisis. Partnerships also help ensure that the right people are getting the right jobs— supporting both workers and businesses during the recovery.

To help achieve the G20's goals, Ciett is also calling for greater recognition at policy level of the role played by the agency work industry in supporting economic recovery. Private employment services keep job-seekers in touch with the jobs market by acting as a stepping stone to the labour market. Agencies also work constantly to secure new employment contracts for their workers. The sector efficiently and effectively matches supply and demand using skill assessment tools and its real time knowledge of the labour market.

Moreover, private employment agencies provide workers with vocational training to ensure that their skills are in line with the needs of the market. The sector functions as an economic indicator and conducts regular research into labour market trends. It also relocates workers from sectors where there have been layoffs to sectors where there is still activity and growth, thereby facilitating social, geographical and professional mobility.

Fair regulation is needed that allows the industry to function properly and protects workers' rights. Then the agency work industry will be able to make its fullest contribution to economic recovery. To this end, the sector is calling for G20 Leaders to support the increased ratification of ILO Convention n°181 on Private Employment Agencies in their own countries. The Convention recognizes the role private employment agencies can play in a well-functioning labour market and provides them with a legal framework of operation, while ensuring the protection of their workers. This would go a long way to support the development of a fully functioning, well regulated industry that can fulfil its potential in supporting economic recovery.

Notes to the editors

Founded in Paris in 1967, Ciett is the authoritative voice representing the interests of the private employment agencies across the world. It is recognised as such by international bodies (e.g. EU institutions, International Labour Organisation, OECD, IOM) as well as by key stakeholders (IOE, ITUC, UNI Global Union).

Ciett is the only association representing agency work at large (brings together 40 national federations) and in its diversity (represents six of the largest multinational staffing companies as well as tens of thousands of SMEs).

Ciett promotes the contribution of millions of agency workers to our economy. Representing a well-regulated industry, members of Ciett refuse to compete to the expenses of workers' rights and work hand-in-hand with governments to fight illegal work and social dumping.

Through their network of 120,000 branches and their 700,000 permanent employees, Ciett members employ 9 million workers (full time equivalent) on an average day.

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