

AGENCY WORK SEES FIRST GREEN SHOOTS OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Sao Paolo, 26 May 2010 - As the OECD Ministers meet in Paris today to discuss economic growth, new figures show that the agency work industry is seeing the first green shoots of recovery. Temporary agency work has increased in France, Germany, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States, showing that agency workers are the first to be recruited as the global recovery slowly takes hold.

The latest statistics show increases of 19% in the United States in April, 11% in Germany in March, and 13.3% in Spain in March compared with the same periods in 2009. Agency work reached its highest levels in three years in the United Kingdom in March, while France, which had experienced a 26% decline in the sector in 2009, saw a year on year growth of 1.5% in the first two months of 2010.

To enable the sector to create more and better jobs and further boost economic recovery, the industry through its representative body, Ciett is working with the International Labour Organisation to promote Convention 181: the legal framework for private employment agencies to operate and safeguard agency workers' rights. 23 countries have already ratified the convention, which helps provide the most vulnerable in society with decent work – only ten of these are OECD members.

On the eve of the OECD annual forum, *'we call on the OECD to encourage its member states to recognise the contribution agency work brings to labour markets through job creation and the ability to act as a stepping stone to employment. The OECD should make it clear that the private employment agency industry provides companies with the flexibility they need to get back on their feet'* said Denis Pennel, Managing Director of Ciett.

The private employment agency industry is facilitating the relocation of workers from sectors where there have been layoffs to sectors where there is still activity and growth. It can effectively match supply and demand using skill assessment tools and its real time knowledge of the labour market. It is keeping people in touch with the jobs market and providing workers with vocational training that ensures their skills are in line with market demand. It also increases transparency in the labour market by acting as an economic indicator and carrying out regular research into labour market trends.

At the Ciett 2010 annual World Employment Conference in Brazil this week, corporations, private employment agencies, and unions from across the world will be meeting to discuss how temporary work can support economic recovery.

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Editors' notes

- Ciett is the representative body for the private employment agency industry. It unites 41 national federations of PrEAs and six of the largest multinational staffing companies as well as tens of thousands of SMEs. Its role is to promote the interests of Private Employment Agencies in order to enhance their sustainable growth and to create the most suitable legal environment for the industry to operate in.
- The Ciett 2010 annual World Employment Conference is being held in San Paolo, Brazil from 26 to 28 May, hosted by employers' union SINDEPRESTEM, with the main national and international entities of the Staffing Services sector. The event will consolidate the concept of "triangular relationship", in which businesses generate decent work opportunities and offer more qualifications to people, more flexibility and competitiveness to the organizations that use these services, and more public revenue to the government. Speakers include Horacio de Martini, President, CIETT; Donna Koeltz, Senior Specialist, Employment Services, International Labour Organisation; Lambert Kleinmann, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission; Giedre Lelyte, Policy Officer, UNI Global Union; David Arkless, President of Corporate of Corporate and Government Affairs, Manpower Inc; and Vander Morales, President, SINDEPRESTEM.