



# CES-KAS

## The European Labour Market Success through Flexibility and Mobility

Brussels, 25 November 2013



**Centre for European Studies**  
Rue du Commerce 20, 1000 Brussels  
+32 (0) 2 300 80 04  
[info@thinkingeurope.eu](mailto:info@thinkingeurope.eu)

## Event report

On 25 November 2013, the Centre for European Studies (CES) and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) organised an expert workshop entitled 'The European Labour Market – Success through Flexibility and Mobility'.

After a warm welcome by **Stefan Gehrold**, KAS Director of the Europe office in Brussels, and **Tomi Huhtanen**, CES Director, four invited experts gave a presentation with a Q&A afterwards which was moderated by **Roland Freudenstein**, CES Deputy Director and Head of Research, and **Eva Rindfleisch**, KAS Coordinator for Labour Market Policy and Social Policy.

**Dr Werner Eichhorst**, Institute for the Study of Labour in Bonn, stressed the fact that over the past few years Germany was able to shrink its unemployment rates and to create more employment relationships. For him, the key measures, which led to the good economic outlook in Germany, are the model of social dialogue between employer and employee and the labour market reforms. **Dr Eichhorst** believes that the German grand coalition government will introduce more regulation, more state involvement and a structural change of labour market segmentation.

**Chris Serroyen**, Director of the Study Site of the Christian Democratic and Flemish, asked the question to what extent Germany can actually be a role model for other countries, especially when you take into account the resentments in some parts of Europe when it comes to a policy approach driven by Germany. In addition, he criticised Germany in creating the wealth through extremely low wages which has led to an increase of poverty and economic inequality.

**Dr Wido Geis**, Cologne Institute for Economic Research, broadly introduced his ideas on the vast potential of a single European labour market. In his presentation he outlined the extremely low level of European work force mobility. **Dr Geis** highlighted that mobility and immigration flows are usually much stronger between countries where the same language is spoken. Therefore, one of his proposals was to give financial and organisational support for English language courses to foster the mobility and to give more incentive in learning a language.

**Laurence Weerts**, Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner László Andor, introduced the concept of the European Employment Service (EURES). EURES is, in her opinion, an essential instrument for the further development of the labour market in Europe because it offers the opportunity to create more transparency through a self-governing network that gives an overview of all jobs available throughout Europe. Until now, the efforts are focused on the public sector but at a later stage private stakeholders will also be able to use it. The key goal is a more transparent European labour market which can foster the mobility of the workers she added.