

POETTERING WELCOMES VOTE ON SERVICES DIRECTIVE

16-02-2006



Welcoming the outcome of the vote on the draft Services directive today in the European Parliament, **Hans-Gert Poettering**, Chairman of the [EPP-ED Group](#), said the positive vote was important in the context of achieving the goals of the Lisbon Strategy and would improve the competitiveness of the European Union.

The package of amendments adopted by Parliament, are largely the work of the EPP-ED Group.

The EPP-ED Group managed to ensure that Member States could not use the excuse of consumer protection to undermine the directive.

The package now adopted is balanced and excludes the possibility of social or wage dumping. It will give new opportunities to small and medium sized enterprises and will promote job creation and competitiveness. In effect Parliament has re-written the original bad proposal from the Commission. The text that has now emerged is a good basis for negotiation with the Council. Poettering called on the Commission and Council to do their work on the Directive with a sense of urgency so that this Directive could be adopted without delay.

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