

*Voice of the People*

**Manuscript**  
**EU and labour**  
**With answers from politicians at the Parliament**  
**TVSYD, Brussels**

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Duration: 4'18

Music:

**Translation**  
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0'01 Henrik Lyse, Buyer, Denmark

"What can I get out of the Union, when we are talking about jobs?"

0'04 SIGN:

You have free movement within the borders of the European Union. This means among other things that you are allowed to be employed in all other countries in the Union

0'13 Graham Watson, Member of the Parliament, UK

Probably a good first step will be to go to a European Union information office in your home country and find out about your possibilities in another member state. These days of course you just go on to your computer screen, and you look it all up online. I'm very impressed by the Europe website: [www.europe.eu.int](http://www.europe.eu.int) that will tell you everything

0'51 Giorgios Katifioris, Member of the Parliament, Greece

We have had a collapse of a European regime from the 50ties and 60ties with a non-existing unemployment of 1-2 %. Now we have 10-12% of unemployment, and the worst thing is, that it has been so for more decades. This is a big problem, we have to solve, and it can only be solved by us trying to get economic growth and make the European economy more dynamic. And that is the whole idea behind the so-called Lisbon process, which has said, that the target for 2010 is to make the European economy the most dynamic in the whole world. Let's hope....

1'49 Elsebeth Christensen, Production assistant, Denmark

"I would like to know, how they are going to protect me against the cheap labour from the Eastern countries?"

2'01 SIGN:

In April 2004 the European Union had 8% of unemployment in average. Only three of the new member states have a lower unemployment, the rest has a higher. In Poland they have around 20% unemployed people

2'16 Elmar Brok, Member of the Parliament, Germany

That is very easy, because in the future you'll have the territorial principal. You can only work in Denmark, if you have the same wages and the same social policy and have other points fulfilled. So it's not possible to come with Polish costs to Denmark

2'43 Graham Watson, Member of the Parliament, UK

There is a lot of rather unjustified fear of how we are going to be swamp by workers from the new member states. All of the experience we have shows, that people actually start to go back to their home countries when the economic opportunities are better. Poland has at the moment a net invade emigration of about half a million people every year. And I remember back to the 1980ties when Spain and Portugal and Greece joined the European Union, everyone said we're going to be swamp by their workers. It didn't happen. And I do not believe, that it will happen with this enlargement either

3'34 Giorgios Katifioris, Member of the Parliament, Greece

We don't expect a huge wave of immigration. But however we have in the accession treaty allowed a period during which the free movement has been suspended for 7 years in Germany. After those years there will be arrangements, which have limited the flow of employment.

4'03 Jørgen Hansen, Blacksmith, Denmark

"You have the possibility, that a lot of people will come to Denmark from the new member states. They are used not to get high salaries, and of course the employees will then hire those people. I'm just happy, that I have this age...But of course this is only a brief comfort"