

*Voice of the People*

**Manuscript**  
**EU and Employment**  
**TVSYD, DK**

Crew:

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Duration: 7'50

Music: The European Anthem from the Council of Europe CD, track 16 26 sec

## **Translation EU and Employment TVSYD, DK**

0'10

speaking:

The EU was formed mainly to enhance trade within the European borders. Since, many areas have been added which the EU-members cooperate on, too. However, trade and economy are still very important factors. With 25 countries in the Union, countries which have had widely different opportunities for economic development, naturally, there are large economic differences. Measured in GNP per capita, the small country of Luxembourg is at the very top of the list with a GNP almost twice the size of the average for the rest of the EU. While the new member-state Latvia, has the lowest BNP per capita.

0'59

sync:

What will be done regarding the economy? I think that this is the most important link. Joining of enterprises with foreign enterprises, and inclusion of small enterprises - how will this be solved in Slovenia as there are many problems here.

1'21

sync:

We have the regional policy. The biggest part of the regional policy ... the money is going to the poorest part of the Union, and I think that's right. We should have that kind of policy. We can look at Ireland, Spain, Portugal. It has been effective. If you look at Ireland today, GDP in Ireland is higher than in my country, today. It's not only because of this. It's a lot of ... But we must do that, and now we have 10 new member states, and the people there are much poorer, so our funds, our regional funds, must concentrate on those countries, so they can have better infrastructure, which is important, better education and so on.

2'28

speaking:

When it comes to wages there are also large differences within the Union. In 2002, the Danish average wage in the manufacturing- and service-trades was at the very top with an annual gross income of 43,577 euros, whereas Great Britain came in second

with 40,553 euros. Poland came in last with an annual gross income of 7,172 euros for a worker in the manufacturing- and service-trade, and Slovakia with only 4,582 euros.

3'01

sync:

I would like to know whether there will really be so many opportunities for employment within the EU, as they say there will. I think that it will be difficult.

3'09

sync:

If I want a job in Italy, I go to Italy. And if there is a job I have to try to get it. And I have the same right as the Italians, or the Spaniards or anyone else. Sometimes, of course, I have to be honest, the language may be a problem in certain kinds of jobs.

3'35

speak:

However, not all citizens can take a job this way within the Union. Some countries have, for fear of an influx of workers from the new member-states, enforced special restrictions which protect them for the next 7 years.

3'50

sync:

Do you think it's reasonable this fear?

No, not really. I can see the differences between Sweden and Denmark and Germany and Austria, because they have the direct border. There is a difference, but it's only a few months now, but in my country we don't see any signs of people coming and taking the job from Swedes.

4'23

speak:

The EU has made special agreements on equal opportunities for men and women, and still more companies, i.e. Deutsche Bank, adopt a special equal-opportunity policy. Still, there is a great difference from country to country when it comes to the number of working women. Sweden is at the very top when it comes to women from 15-64 years. 71% of Swedish women work away from home, closely followed by Danish women, of which 70% have chosen to work away from home. In Greece and Italy, less than half of the women work away from home.

4'56

sync:

In Southern Europe you still see many women working at home, and our goal is to increase their interest in their own education and in getting a job, knowing that they have the same opportunities as men have. That isn't clear today's society.

5'10

sync:

In the 70's, when I was much younger, we didn't have the situation we have today, the same level of employment between men and women. But it changed, and so it is changing all over Europe today. There is a difference in employment level between men and women, but the women are getting closer and closer, and I think in 10 years, I hope, maybe the women in most of the member countries will have the same level of employment.

5'51

speak:

It is up to each country to decide how much they are going to spend on the education system in their own country, and actually Lithuania takes the first place when it comes to spending money on medium-length educations. In 2000, Lithuania spent 3.6% of GNP on education, followed by Denmark on second place with 3.1%. Greece and Ireland came in last with 1.6%.

6'19

Sync:

It must be a matter of how to ensure that the EU adopts the right labour policies and similar labour cultures.

6'28

Sync:

In my country, salaries are not my business as a politician. The social partners negotiate the level of salaries. And I think it should be...

It's a good ... But it will be more harmonized, because we compare with one another. If we look at Spain, Portugal and Sweden in the 70's, the levels were like this. Today, there is not so much difference. And I'm quite sure, but can't prove it, that if we look at Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, today, the level is here, if we compare with the old member states. But in 10 years, there will be differences, but not that big ones. We can not solve that with laws, but the workers in those countries will say: "Look at that country there. I want a higher salary." But it will take 10-15-20 years.