

Press Information

For immediate release

Attachment:

- FICE's letter to the Legal Affairs Committee in Riigikogu, December 1st, 2008

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Tallinn December 2nd, 2008

FICE urges the Legal Affairs Committee of Riigikogu to work for a resolute and fast implementation of the new Labour Contract Act

“A fast implementation of the important measures and clarifications drawn up in the draft for a new Labour Contract Act are of vital importance for Estonia’s economic recovery – especially considering the current international financial and economic situation as well as the current local Estonian labour market situation”, says the Foreign Investors’ Council (FICE) in a second letter to the Legal Affairs Committee in Riigikogu.

FICE’s December 1st letter to Riigikogu’s Legal Affairs Committee follows an early November letter to this Committee on the same issue. “FICE considers it to be of national importance, that the new Estonian labour law will help to give back the competitive edge, which the country has gradually lost over the past years”, said the Foreign Investors’ Council in their first letter.

FICE’s objective is to make a positive contribution to Estonia’s National Development Plan and the council has focused on three main issues being further developed in three FICE work groups; The Tax System, Energy & Environment and Education & Labour.

- FICE now express its support for the initiative to have the new labour law entering into force on July 1st, 2009 and not to be postponed until January 1st, 2010, as requested by the trade unions, says Maren Diale-Schellschmidt, leader of FICE’s Education & Labour work group and CEO of the German-Baltic Chamber of Commerce.

- A resolute and fast implementation of this new law will send positive signals to businesses and foreign investors in Estonia, and will furthermore assist in attracting new and keeping existing foreign investments in the country, says Maren Diale-Schellschmidt. Moreover, the new law will relax the labour market and give better opportunities for unemployed searching for new perspectives and strengthen existing working relationships.

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- All these effects, resulting from the new law, should be coming into effect as soon as possible, any delays will not improve, but rather worsen the current situation, concludes Maren Diale-Schellschmidt. FICE has therefore now urged the members of the Legal Affairs Committee of Riigikogu to bring the draft for the new Labour Contract Act forward in the legislative process for an implementation on July 1st, 2009.

For further information on FICE's opinions on the draft for a new Estonian labour law, please contact:

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For general information on FICE – Foreign Investors' Council in Estonia, please contact:

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FICE - Foreign Investors' Council in Estonia is a lobby group acting through contacts with the Estonian Government and Estonia's Governmental bodies.

Pioneering FICE members include the American, Austrian, British, Danish, Finnish, German-Baltic, Holland, Norwegian and Swedish Chambers of Commerce, Business Clubs and Marketing Offices in Estonia.

Together, the nine countries represented among FICE's members had a more than 80% share of the total foreign direct investments in Estonia during the first six months 2008 [source: Eesti Pank].

To

The Legal Affairs Committee of RiigikoguFor the attention of:

Ken-Marti Vaher, Committee Chairman
Kalle Laanet, Committee Vice Chairman
Members of the Committee;
Tiina Oraste
Hanno Pevkur
Jaanus Rahumägi
Indrek Saar
Erik Salumäe
Ain Seppik
Toivo Tootsen

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Our earlier reference in this matter:

- FICE's letter to the
Legal Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu,
06.11.2008

Tallinn December 1st, 2008**Implementation of the new Labour law being reviewed in your
Committee**

Honourable members of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu,

Referring to the Foreign Investors' Council's in Estonia (FICE) letter of November 6th, 2008 to the Legal Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu and the following mutual discussions on the draft for a new Labour Contract Act, FICE hereby wishes to underline the vital importance of having the new law entering into force as soon as possible.

We therefore strongly support the initiative to have the law entering into force on July 1st, 2009 and not to be postponed until January 1st, 2010, as requested by the trade unions.

A fast implementation of the important measures and clarifications drawn up in the draft for a new Labour Contract Act are of vital importance for Estonia's economic recovery – especially considering the current international financial and economic situation as well as the current local Estonian labour market situation.

A resolute and fast implementation of this new law will send positive signals to businesses and foreign investors in Estonia, and will furthermore assist in attracting new and keeping existing foreign investments in the country. Moreover, the new law will relax the labour market and give better opportunities for unemployed searching for new perspectives and strengthen existing working relationships.

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All these effects, resulting from the new law, should be coming into effect as soon as possible – any delays will not improve, but rather worsen the current situation.

FICE therefore urges the members of the Legal Affairs Committee of Riigikogu to bring the draft for the new Labour Contract Act forward in the legislative process for an implementation on July 1st, 2009.

FICE also repeats its offer for a continuous dialogue including further proposals and best practice experiences regarding labour legislation and measures improving the Estonian labour market based on experiences made in the different countries represented in FICE.

On behalf of FICE – Foreign Investors' Council in Estonia,

Yours sincerely,



Jens Christiansen
FICE Chairman



/Kristiina Sikk
FICE Secretary

Cc:

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip

The Minister of Social Affairs Maret Maripuu

The Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee of Riigikogu Urmas Klaas

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