



# TaskForce

GRENZGÄNGER . TRAVAILLEURS TRANSFRONTALIERS . GRENSARBEIDERS



## MOBILITY 2006: FOCUS ON FRONTIER WORKERS

### PIONEERS ON THE MOBILITY FRONT

Border regions have long been laboratories for workers' mobility in Europe. Despite the ECJ's Titan work in dismantling obstacles to free movement, too many barriers still persist. "That can not be the European Union" is a recurrent grumble in border regions. Indeed, contrary to migrant workers, frontier workers constantly lie at the interconnection between two legal systems. As a result, they very much suffer from difficulties to coordinate national laws, mainly in the fields of Tax, Social Security and Employment Law.

### A TASK FORCE TO ERADICATE OBSTACLES TO MOBILITY

Aware of these difficulties, the governors of the Euregio Maas-Rhine established a new Task Force in charge of fighting obstacles to mobility within the German-Belgian-Dutch region ([www.emr-taskforce.org](http://www.emr-taskforce.org)). The project was planned on a three years basis thanks to EU financial support in the framework of the INTERREG Programme. Problems are well known and a significant network of experts helps frontier workers to overcome difficulties on an individual basis. Thanks to their support, and in particular to EURES, the Task Force intends to put forward realistic proposals for reform.

### A FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

In order to give significant political weight to this initiative, the governors have chosen to appoint Hans Niessen as a director. The former Minister for Health and Social matters in the German speaking community of Belgium is assisted by field experts as well as legal advisers specialised in EU Law. The team is keen on exchanging on best practices with people taking part in comparable projects in other parts of Europe. Ideally, the team's know-how gained through three years' focus on frontier workers should not be lost but exported in other border regions where analogous difficulties arise.