

### 3. ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

**EFFAT** and **CEETTAR** have established that

- the restructuring and modernisation of rural structures for the new Member States represent a major challenge,
- associated measures (professional training, general retraining, rural services) are crucial in this context,
- the role of trade unions and employers' associations is underdeveloped in the new Member States,
- despite the progress made, the national authorities too often cling on to a passive role,
- social partners are only given limited access to important information concerning European developments and programmes and this poses a threat to economic and social links.

**EFFAT** and **CEETTAR** have therefore decided

to implement an on-going initiative by means of an active partnership, which includes a three-level approach:

LISTEN - INFORM - PROMOTE DIALOGUE.

The two social partners of the rural service contractors (RSC's) will also fulfil their responsibilities with the aim of improving living and working conditions in rural areas.

Therefore the two social partners of the RSC's hereby instruct the offices of their European umbrella organisations to implement all the relevant initiatives, in order to achieve the aims of this declaration with the support of the European institutions.

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## WORKING TOWARDS MORE EMPLOYMENT AND QUALITY

### DECLARATION of MÜNSTER

**FROM THE SOCIAL PARTNERS OF RURAL  
SERVICE CONTRACTORS**

**on 7 DECEMBER 2006**

The Confédération Européenne des Entreprises de Travaux Agricoles Ruraux et Forestiers (**CEETTAR\***), the association of agricultural and rural contractors working in the fields of agriculture, forestry, local initiatives, landscape conservation, ground and water management, environment protection, composting and recultivation

and

the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (**EFFAT**)

- highlight the crucial role of intensive and independent dialogue for the implementation of the Lisbon process in the rural service contractor sector,
- have decided to implement jointly all the initiatives required to develop more business, more jobs and more quality services within the rural sector.
- have resolved to intensify their combined response to the following future challenges:

## **1. EMPLOYMENT and QUALIFICATION**

**EFFAT** and **CEETTAR** have established

- that rapid developments and far-reaching changes are taking place in agriculture and that a wide variety of new jobs have been created by rural service contractors within this sector.

The two social partners **EFFAT** and **CEETTAR**

- emphasise the importance of a coherent European employment policy,
- have identified key areas within their strategy, which have prompted them to implement joint initiatives for the promotion of employment and quality,

in particular:

- promotion of employment in rural areas,
- Promotion of cross-border projects,

(\*European Federation of Agricultural and Rural Contractors)

- Promotion of geographical and professional mobility and employability,
- Stressing how crucial the status of independent contractors and small businesses is for rural services,
- Promotion of professional qualifications for rural service contractors (RSC's).
- Promotion of rural development and environmental policies,
- Promotion of new qualitative production methods and modern services with jobs for qualified employees.

## **2. HEALTH and SAFETY**

The two social partners **EFFAT** and **CEETTAR**:

- have established that the professional sector of rural service contractors is subject to major and specific risks and that its key priority is to prevent accidents,
- emphasise the significance of a coherent European prevention policy,
- have identified key areas within their strategy, which have prompted them to implement joint initiatives for the promotion of accident prevention.

in particular

- Improvement of practices and health and safety management in RSC's,
- Intensification of the partnership with the relevant European employment and health protection institutions,
- Reduction of accidents and illness of employees.