

Advisory mission to CERM, Macedonia and signing of Partnership Agreement

During a Board meeting on February 24, 2009, CERM (Confederation of Employers of the Republic of Macedonia), represented by its President Mile Boskov and Ronald de Leij of DECP signed a Partnership Agreement.

As introduction to the signing ceremony, DECP's Director, Mr. de Leij, expressed his happiness to be in Macedonia and to sign this agreement with an independent employers' organisation willing to improve the business environment in his country with the support of colleagues from abroad.



One of the matters discussed during the AGM was the problems employers encounter with newly introduced measures by the Ministry of Finance. Monthly pay-checks for employees first have to be presented to the ministry before payment can take place. This measure is severely delaying the payment of monthly salaries.

As a possible solution, the idea arose of CERM setting-up a service with the aim to assist their members in complying with the new procedures. This would avoid having employers to return several times to the ministry. Mr. Mile Boskov agreed to make a feasibility project for this potential service.

The board-meeting was concluded by a cocktail where informal contacts could be developed.

In the afternoon, the DECP-delegation had a meeting at the Dutch Embassy with Mrs. Filippini, ambassador, and Mr. Ivanovski, Economy and Trade Officer. It was an opportunity to present DECP, its organization and its objectives to the ambassador, followed by a presentation of the new Partnership Agreement.

In the following discussion, the ambassador gave information about the direct support provided by the Embassy to the government of Macedonia, as for example to the new Revenue Office of the Ministry of Finance, and to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

Mrs. Filippini declared to be ready to organize an informal contact with the minister of finance, the EU-Ambassador, Mr. Boshkov and some other important stakeholders, as e.g. the Trade Unions, about the present problems with the “paychecks”.

In conclusion, DECP promised to keep the Embassy well informed about the progress in DECP's cooperation with CERM.