Services e-card

The EU services sector represents two thirds of the EU economy and accounts for 90% of job creation. With “A services economy that works for Europeans”, the Commission proposes to boost the services sector to the benefit of consumers, jobseekers and businesses. The package of measures includes a proposal for a new European Services e-card.

Today, service providers wishing to do business in another Member State find it hard to navigate complex administrative formalities in different languages and with substantial paperwork. The e-card is a new, simple and fully electronic procedure for self-employed people and companies who provide construction or business services (such as accounting, tax advice, architecture, engineering, IT).

It will ensure that the service providers comply with all legal requirements in both the home and host country and help save time and money (possibly up to 50% of administrative fees, which can be as high as €10 000), responding to the digital needs of today’s world and enhancing cooperation between national authorities in the process.

What remains unchanged?

The e-card makes life easier for service providers who want to expand abroad but changes nobody's rights and obligations.

- The e-card will have no impact on workers’ rights and employer obligations, consumer protection, or health, safety and environmental standards.
- The host Member State retains the power to decide whether the applicant is allowed to offer services on its territory and can cancel, revoke or suspend the e-card at any time.