

Plenary debate on "Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States" (Ory report), intervention by Prof. Danuta Hübner.

7 September 2010, 18:00h

There is a high risk of jobless recovery and growth. Europe cannot afford this.

First, we must focus our employment strategy on the EU's comparative advantages: education, research and green technology. Second, we must avoid a trade-off between innovation and job creation. This can be avoided if innovation is inclusive. Third, we must strike a sustainable balance between support for existing jobs and the creation of new ones. Investing in a highly skilled labour force will go hand in hand with innovation. Of course, there will be jobs that are not sufficiently rewarded by the markets. We must have policy instruments to cope with this. Fourth, there is a need to activate both labour demand and supply policy measures. There are plenty of employment policy instruments available but they must be put together in a good and comprehensive policy framework. Fifth, we must orchestrate well the efforts, responsibilities and policy instruments between all levels of governance: European, national, regional and local. And last but not least, the internal market - it must provide for full mobility of labour force, both vertically in terms of career and life long learning, as well as horizontally, geography-wise.