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Successful start to the agencies' exhibition at the European Parliament

On 1 February, European Commission Vice President Maroš Šefčovič along with MEP Jutta Haug, Standing Rapporteur for the agencies in the Committee on Budgets of the European Parliament, and Jukka Takala of OSHA, doyen of the agencies' directors, opened a week-long exhibition at the European Parliament in Brussels, *EU agencies: the way ahead*. The aim of the exhibition is to highlight the contribution and impact of the decentralised agencies of the EU.

Commissioner Šefčovič and Ms Haug warmly welcomed the agencies' initiative to showcase their activities throughout the week at the European Parliament in Brussels. Mr Šefčovič underlined the important contribution of the agencies to the daily work of the European Union. Ms Haug added that this exhibition would improve the understanding of the decentralised agencies within the European Parliament. Members of Parliament and other guests were offered a panorama of the agencies' activities.



Clockwise from left: Juan Menendez-Valdes, Director, Eurofound; Diana Madill, BBC; Markus Schwertel, CISCO; Christian Lettmayr, Acting Director, Cedefop; Britta Thomsen, MEP; Gailė Dagiliene, Director, CdT (back to camera)

Cedefop's Acting Director Christian Lettmayr participated in a round table on the role of education and innovation in creating jobs. "Cedefop has been forecasting skill needs for some years now. But it is not enough to identify these needs. We have to be able to translate them very quickly into targeted and relevant education and training", he said. The round table also included MEP Britta Thomsen (DK), Markus Schwertel, of the European Programming Unit of CISCO Systems, and several EU agency directors.

The round table noted that governments and social partners are jointly responsible for creating better links between education and employment, and for supporting lifelong learning and language skills as a means of stimulating European business and ensuring

social cohesion. The discussion was broadcast live by European Parliament television and will be posted on 3 February on the EP's YouTube channel.

Links:

- Exhibition website
<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/eu-agencies-the-way-ahead>
- European Parliament's YouTube channel
<http://www.youtube.com/user/EuropeanParliament>
- High resolution image of round table discussion
http://cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/agencies_week_round_table_2011.png



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About Cedefop

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), an agency of the European Union based in Thessaloniki, Greece, supports European policy-making in the field of vocational education and training. www.cedefop.europa.eu