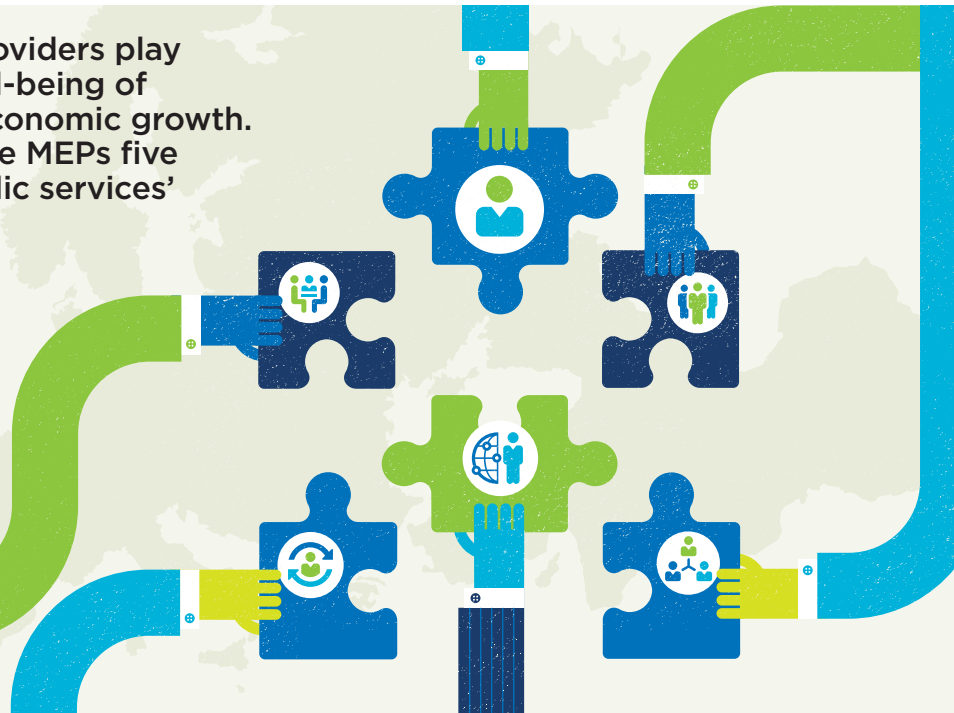


OUR DEMANDS

Public services' employers and providers play a major part in promoting the well-being of citizens and driving sustainable economic growth. That is why CEEP submits to future MEPs five recommendations to support public services' providers in these areas.

Indeed, while public services' providers have adapted and keep adapting to the demands and challenges that have arisen in recent years, full implementation of these recommendations still remains to be seen.



For this reason, CEEP calls on future members of the European Parliament to:

Ensure continuous accessible funding for public services

Despite a slight improvement of the economic outlook by the end of 2013, public services still face difficulties due to financial constraints. According to the CEEP Autumn 2013 Pulse of Public Services survey, "Budget cuts" was identified by public services' providers as their number one challenge followed by "Pursuit of greater efficiency" and "Find the workforce with the appropriate skills".

Therefore, we call for the upcoming European Parliament:

- **To ensure the continuation of the Project Bonds initiative;**
- **To guarantee that new long-term investment tools do not replace the investments that should be made within public budgets** but rather complement or add to the existing funding opportunities for public services;
- **To favour the development of physical and social infrastructures**, including human capital, that are essential for private business prosperity and citizens' quality of life;
- **To facilitate the understanding of how EU competition policies may be implemented at national and local level with regard to public services.** Authorities indeed need clear and simple rules as well as guidance when implementing them, as for instance in the case of EU state aid rules.

Adopt a long-term view when planning for the future

The contribution of public services' employers and providers is essential to ensure long-term anticipation of change. The provision of education, healthcare or transport services creates territorial, economic and social cohesion and constitutes a clear commitment to future economic development. Investment in public services pays off.

As a consequence, future MEPs should consider the impact of each of their decisions on the current and next generations and support innovation, research and education as a key for future growth by:

- **Transforming as much as possible the current crisis into the source of a new creative mindset** for our economy and society;
- **Maintaining high on the agenda the necessity for growth-oriented investments** in high quality public services;
- **Better supporting long-term investments at European level**, including the creation of incentives for better risk/return management over long periods of time, continuous investments in public services' infrastructure and in human capital;
- **Maintaining the coherence with all EU objectives and values** to ensure economic, social and environmental cohesion, always keeping the balance between the European Economic and Social Model.

Put sustainability first

In a world of increasingly scarce resources and where the preservation of the environment is a major concern, the efficient supply and use of water and energy, as well as the correct approach to waste disposal are vital to achieve Europe's climate change and energy objectives. CEEP's members in the transport sector also play a determining role in meeting Europe's environmental objectives, and should be facilitated in their role.

Public services' providers can actively help to achieve those EU targets. We therefore call on future MEPs to:

- **To ensure a strong, coherent and efficient public transport sector.** It is vital for the limitation of greenhouse gases in the environment in line with Europe 2020 targets;
- **To achieve Europe's climate change and energy objectives** through an ambitious yet realistic carbon reduction target;
- **To safeguard Europe's waters** by developing clear and efficient water management methodologies;
- **To seek to contribute to the process of creating a cross-border energy flow.**

Support innovation, research and education

The Europe 2020 Strategy has set an ambitious target of a 75% employment rate to be achieved by 2020. Today, the shortages of workers with specific skills and competences have become a serious problem in many sectors and an obstacle to growth in some enterprises.

In a changing world, there is a clear need to better anticipate future skills' needs. It has become difficult for education, training providers or enterprises to predict accurately what specific competences will be required in the workplaces of the future. Our common goal is to make the European Union and its Member States the leading educative hub and a successful centre of research attracting innovative spirits.

Therefore we have several recommendations for future MEPs to support innovation, research and education:

- **To support** continued efforts of **innovation in the delivery of public services** and to answer citizens' and businesses' expectations by implementing adequate regulations (public procurement rules, state aid rules for research and innovation);
- **To improve the transition from education into the labour market** through the overall expansion of the availability and quality of apprenticeships and internships;
- **To actively promote the bettering of labour market transitions** in order to enhance the overall employability of European workers and design an approach consistent with the development of lifelong learners through the identification of today's and tomorrow's key competences;
- **To underline the importance of sound framework conditions** to promote the attractiveness of jobs in public services through cooperation between social partners and public authorities at national, regional and local levels.

Provide legal certainty to essential services and respect subsidiarity principles

The very specific nature of Services of General Interest (SGIs) is now well recognised in the EU primary law and clear provisions have been included in the EU Treaties. This now needs to be implemented in all EU rules impacting the provision of SGIs, as this has been done in the revision of EU public procurement directives and in the directive setting out minimum EU requirements for the award by public authorities of concession contracts.

It is essential that the clear legal framework for SGIs within the EU Treaties is translated into any future secondary law. That is why we call on future MEPs to:

- **To guarantee that the principle of subsidiarity and equal treatment between all modes of provision of public services is respected by secondary law.** Member States' authorities have the general competence and wide discretion on the provision of SGIs and the EU institutions are restricted to the control of manifest errors. However the modalities of the shared competence between the EU and its Member States, subject of the subsidiarity principle, have to be clarified;
- **To ensure the respect of the neutrality of the EU law towards the great variety of public services' providers.** It is determining in the fostering of effective and adapted public services, fit for citizens and businesses' needs;
- **To safeguard the Treaties' principles in all the activities of the European legislator,** including its negotiations with third countries. Therefore we call for transparency in those processes and the participation of the European Parliament, especially in the context of the current negotiations on a TTIP with the United States;
- **To promote effective consultations with stakeholders at all stages of the legislative procedure.** This should ensure that the needs and specificities of providers at all levels are well taken into account in the EU legislative process. In this regard we also encourage future MEPs to pay special attention to the evaluation of existing legislation in order to ensure a smart and proportionate regulation.

WE CALL ON THE FUTURE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO CONCENTRATE ON EFFECTIVELY ANSWERING THOSE DEMANDS DURING THE UPCOMING FIVE-YEAR LEGISLATIVE TERM. THIS WILL IMPROVE THE FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS IN WHICH PUBLIC SERVICES' EMPLOYERS AND PROVIDERS HAVE TO FULFIL THEIR MISSION AND CONSEQUENTLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS.



Your voice.
Your interests.
Your future.