



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO
EUROPOS REIKALŲ KOMITETAS
SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

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Mr. Claus LARSEN-JENSEN
Chairman of the European Affairs Committee
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Dear Colleague,

In view of the recent developments in the European Union concerning restrictions on the access to the EU labour markets, we feel we need to share with you our growing apprehension on the matter.

We are fully aware of the fact that right of the current EU Member States to impose restrictions on access to their labour markets is explicitly provided for in the Accession Treaty. We also fully understand the fears of the current Member States that a new wave of migration from Eastern and Central Europe may put pressure on their existing social security systems.

As you well know, the study by the European Commission and the EU Foundation for the Improvement in Living and Working Conditions based on a Eurobarometer poll showed that even under conditions of full freedom of movement migration from all new Member States to the current EU Member States over the next five years would be likely to be about 1% of the working age population of the new Member States. The typical potential migrant is young, educated and living as a single person with no dependants. In addition, similar surveys carried out within the EU have shown that intensions on migration are much higher than actual migration.

Therefore, the European Commission is right in saying that the current Member States will be provided with more opportunities than risks and the fears of a huge wave of migration from Eastern and Central Europe after 1 May 2004 will prove to be unfounded.

We would like to urge our colleagues in the Member States to maintain a positive approach towards this delicate issue. Individualised solutions based on bilateral agreements with the acceding countries providing for adequate annual placement quotas and employment of certain categories of specialists would be seen in this part of Europe as a friendly gesture. We would therefore welcome the soonest possible opening of the labour market of Denmark for the Lithuanian citizens. Longer-term solutions will come with the appropriate EU regional and structural policy measures stimulating growth and encouraging young and highly qualified employees to remain in their country as well as the promotion of enhanced labour mobility in an enlarging EU. We are convinced that the above measures would be beneficial for both sides.

Hoping that the above will merit your attention, I remain

Yours truly,

Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis
Chairman