

Sell Your Services to Europe!

In common with countries across Europe, the Government is finalising plans that will make it **easier for service providers to set up or offer their services anywhere in the EU***. Most service sectors are covered – such as accountants, builders, vets, travel agents, hair stylists, consultants...

As a UK business, **from the end of 2009** you will benefit from:

- Online licence applications
- Streamlined regulation
- Less red tape
- Wider customer base

- Electronic portals called 'Points of Single Contact' being set up in each EU country. You will be able to find out **via one portal** all the information you need to do business in a particular country (or region of a country) and, crucially, to use the portal to **complete required applications and licences electronically**.
- **Reduced barriers to trade** across Europe. All EU countries are removing or amending regulatory and administrative barriers that make it difficult to trade across borders e.g. requirements based on nationality.
- Greater co-operation between regulatory authorities. Having supplied information to a UK regulator **you should not need to supply the same information to the equivalent regulator in another EU country**. Say you need to comply with requirements A, B, C and D in France, but have already shown in the UK that you comply with requirements A, B and C – in this case, you only need deal with the French regulator in relation to requirement D.
- **More customers for your services**, who will have greater confidence in cross-border trade through assured access to information on services and to redress procedures. This will require businesses to supply a certain level of information to clients, but it will be the sort of information many already provide. An additional BIS pamphlet contains more guidance on this.

For individual businesses, this initiative (the Services Directive) will provide opportunities to diversify into new markets, secure new client bases and make new business relationships.

For further information, including which sectors are in and out of scope of this initiative, please visit our website at:

www.bis.gov.uk/servicesdirective

Or e-mail servicesdirective@bis.gsi.gov.uk with any queries