

Maria João Rodrigues at the closing session of the S & D Group Conference on "Free Movement of Workers"

As a socialist vice president for economic and social areas, Ms Maria João Rodrigues ended the conference on "free movement of workers" organized by the S & D Group in the European Parliament last 9th December.

The meeting served to exchange views with "experts" and representatives of the main European trade union movement, to contribute to the discussion on the parliamentary report currently under consideration. The problems related to the unequal treatment of posted workers, the complexity of reconciling the different social security systems, access to social and health services in the destination country and the danger of Member States embark by "social dumping" to become more competitive, they were some of the outstanding issues during the session.

According to Maria João Rodrigues "the EU is confronted with new models of the labor market, and for this also need to consider new tools to combat the loss of rights of posted workers". The Vice President explained that "mobility should be seen as a right, but currently witnessing a mobility phenomenon forced resulting from the effects of the economic crisis, which means that there is a threat to current social standards and employment, as there the risk of people in desperate situations accept to work in precarious situations." The MEP stressed that "we need to tackle the reasons that lead to forced mobility, through more investment and job creation for greater economic and social convergence between Member States."