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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Mission of Switzerland to the European Union

INVITATION

Partners in Dialogue

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

The Ambassador of Switzerland to the European Union, H.E. Roberto Balzaretti, cordially invites you to join the evening of discussion



Partners in Dialogue “Youth Employability in Europe: What role for the education systems?”

**on Monday 13th July 2015 at 6.00 pm
at the Mission of Switzerland to the EU, Place du Luxembourg 1, 1050
Brussels.**

In June 2014 nearly 5 million young people, aged 15-24, were unemployed in the EU-28 area. This represents an unemployment rate of 21.9 % in the EU-28 area and of 23.7 % in the euro zone. The gap between the countries with the highest and the lowest jobless rates for young people is extremely high and reaches nearly 50 %. This alarming situation is mainly due to the economic and social crisis. However, there are over 2 million unfilled vacancies in the EU. Therefore, the EU launched the Youth Employment Package in 2012 to tackle the issue.

The impact of the economic and financial crisis on Switzerland has remained to a large extent marginal compared to the EU, with a relatively low unemployment rate of 3.2% in 2014. It may be interesting to look at the framework conditions prevailing in Switzerland and to try to assess whether its education system (in particular the dual-education system) might have a decisive impact on low youth unemployment rates.

What is the role for schools? Do academic institutions meet the needs of the economy and what can be done to avoid skill-mismatch?

Which challenges are the Member States facing while implementing the Youth Employment Initiative and how could these barriers be overcome? Does the countries' youth unemployment rate depict the real situation of young people on the labour market? What are the incentives for the private economy to promote youth employability and invest in education systems?

Programme

18:00 Registration

18:15 Welcome note H.E. Roberto Balzaretti, Ambassador of Switzerland to the EU

Ms. Liliana Rodrigues
Member of the European Parliament

Mr. Michel Servoz
Director-General of Directorate-General "Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion" (EMPL)

Panel discussion

Mr. Stefan Wolter
Director of the Swiss Coordination Center for Research in Education SKBF-CSRE, Aarau, Switzerland

Mr. Alexander von Maillot de la Treille
CEO Nestlé Benelux

Moderator **Mr. René Hoeltschi**
EU & Benelux Correspondent, Neue Zürcher Zeitung,
Brussels Office

19:45 Reception

Registration

To register please reply to this e-mail partnersindialogue@eda.admin.ch
by Monday 6th July 2015

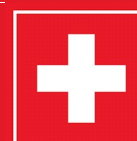
Please note that places are limited.

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