

## **Services Directive: there EU-GO**

As of 28 December the internal market for services will get a boost when the Services Directive enters into force. The service sector accounts for 70% of economic activity in the EU.<sup>1</sup>The Department for Business Innovation and Skills estimates that the services market will grow £4-6 bn a year.

Service providers from other countries sometimes experienced barriers. For example, they had to undertake market assessments before they could provide a service. The directive will take these barriers away. This should make it easier for Service Providers to operate in other Member States. The main improvement, however, is the creation of the internet portal 'EU-GO' in each Member State. EU-GO is an online one-stop-shop enabling businesses in the services sector to apply for licenses without the need to travel to the authority that issues the license. EU-GO contains information for every business, can issue every license, and has a web portal for every country. Opening a restaurant in Greece is just a couple of clicks away. No need to grapple with Greek bureaucracy. You just fill in the licenses you already have, and the UK and Hellenian authorities will sort it out. If you do not hear from them within a certain period of time, you can assume that you can start offering your culinary skills to the Greek.

[Information on the Services Directive](#)

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<sup>1</sup> LGA Briefing Note EU Services Directive, Nov. 2007.