



Youth Work Ireland

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Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
1 February, 2012

“Ireland Needs to Shape up on Youth Unemployment Following Barosso Letter to Kenny and Forthcoming EU Visit on the Issue” says Leading Youth Organisation

Ireland needs to put in place a strategy on Youth Unemployment Following a letter from Jose Manuel Barossa, President of the European Commission to Taoiseach Enda Kenny on the issue according to Youth Work Ireland a leading youth organisation whose members provide a range of training, education and support for early school leavers and young job seekers. The group has said that Ireland can no longer drift along on this important issue given the level of youth unemployment and associated emigration. Youth Work Ireland has urged a forthcoming EU Commission delegation to meet with youth organisations and young unemployed people.

“It is encouraging that the EU is looking to play a more robust role given the lack of progress on this crucial issue. There is also some funding on the table, now more than ever our Government needs to step up and develop a real and effective youth employment strategy. We are urging the Government to revisit all training and education measures, internships, relief work schemes and any other measures which impact in this area. The forthcoming EU delegation on the topic really needs to delve in to the figure for young people not involved in education, employment or training. They also need to get an understanding of the Irish emigration situation which does not necessarily accord with the EU pro mobility position” said Michael Mc Loughlin from Youth Work Ireland

“We all know unemployment is the number one issue in Irish society today but youth unemployment needs special attention as nobody wants to see a whole generation cast aside during this recession. If young people drift into long term unemployment in substantial numbers it may be hard to rescue that situation when any recovery occurs. It is also relatively easier to target young people for education and training measures during the recession as they are closer to the education and training system. We also need to see young people as a resource for example in starting new smart tech companies in new economic areas. These measures can generally be achieved quite cheaply if social welfare savings are applied in keeping these young people off the dole queues” said Michael Mc Loughlin of Youth Work Ireland

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390 words
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