



Ms. Paulien Osse
Director
Wage Indicator Foundation
Plantage Muidergracht 4
1018 TV AMSTERDAM
Pays-Bas

TAP 0-42

01 JUL. 2004

Dear Ms. Osse,

Thank you very much for your invitation to the European launch of the wage-indicator. Due to other commitments, I am unfortunately not able to attend the meeting.

May I take the opportunity to congratulate you on the start of this truly exiting project. The wage-indicator is a very interesting and innovative approach to generate additional statistical data on wages. Encouraging people to build up a 'publicly owned' data base on the internet through their own voluntary supply of wage information, demonstrates how the Internet can be a tool to generate new and easily accessible information. These data cannot replace the need for good and disaggregated national income statistics, however, they are important complementary information and might also have a useful control function in some cases.

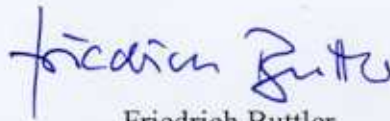
The wage-indicator contributes to labour market transparency. In particular in countries with weak collective bargaining structures and a relatively large shadow economy, your approach can help to generate more realistic information about wage levels, wage structure and wage discrimination and provide useful information for social partners and individuals for wage negotiations.

The value of the wage-indicator as an information source will grow as you will build up more representative data over time. In particular for comparative cross-country studies, reliable wage data will be of great interest for researchers and practitioners alike. As a unique cooperation network of universities, trade unions and media, this project can make a valuable and authoritative contribution to reduce information gaps concerning wage structures and wage differentials between industries, regions and social groups.

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We will inform the ILO constituents about your initiative. The ILO European Regional Conference in 2005 will give us a good opportunity to inform governments, employers and trade unions from all European countries about the wage indicator as an innovative approach that they might consider developing in their own countries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Friedrich Buttler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F'.

Friedrich Buttler
Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia