

# BALANCED **MIGRATION**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**8 April 2009**

### **Government does only “the very least” on Workers Registration Scheme**

Commenting on today’s Home Office announcement that the Workers Registration Scheme will be continued until 2011, Frank Field MP and Nicholas Soames MP, the Co-Chairmen of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration said:

“This is the very least the Government can do. Ministers are simply making full use of the transition period – having completely miscalculated the scale of immigration from Eastern Europe.

“This announcement will not, however, affect competition for jobs in Britain as East Europeans will still be free to come and work here. What the Government can and must do is tighten the Points Based System for non EU migrants so that all British jobs are advertised locally before foreign workers are brought in. The UK issues four times as many work permits as the French, who are already tightening their system. As our dole queues lengthen, where is the fairness and logic in not giving British workers a first crack of the whip in applying for British jobs?”

#### **Notes to editors:**

1. Balanced Migration would seek to bring the number of immigrants into line with the number of emigrants. The main change would be to limit the number of non-EU citizens who are given the right to settle permanently in the UK. Under these proposals, there would be no fundamental change to arrangements governing asylum; foreign students coming to the UK; genuine marriages; and the new Points Based System although some aspects will need to be tightened up. Non-EU citizens would be able to work here for up to four years, after which they would be expected to leave. Permanent settlement would be subject to a small annual limit with applicants selected by a further points system. Balanced Migration, once achieved, would mean that new household formation would be reduced by about a third, and the population of the UK, now nearly 61 million, would stabilise at about

65 million by mid century; by contrast, at present levels of immigration it will be 70 million in 2028 and 80 million in mid century and still rising.

1. “Balanced Migration – A new approach to controlling immigration” is available to download at <http://www.balancedmigration.com/>

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