



Chartered Surveyors welcome proposed €35m fund to assist unemployed Construction Workers

Wednesday 5th October: The Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland has welcomed the proposal by the European Commission to provide €35m from the Globalisation Adjustment Fund to assist unemployed construction workers in regaining employment.

The Society said that these measures would provide a welcome boost to qualified people who through no fault of their own had become unemployed as a result of the downturn in the construction sector.

Andrew Nugent, Chair of Quantity Surveying Professional Group of the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland said that “The Global Adjustment Fund, which has already been provided to other sectors of the economy, could provide unemployed construction workers with much needed support in the areas of extra training, employment supports and enterprise assistance”.

“This could also have a positive knock-on effect for the economy as it will enable unemployed construction workers to return to work and contribute to the economy by paying taxes or by possibly creating employment opportunities for others”.

Construction industry employment has fallen from 271,000 directly employed in the construction industry at the peak to around 105,000 now.

“It is also important to remember that for every ten people employed in construction, another four are indirectly reliant on the construction industry through the provision of services”, he said.

ENDS

Note to editor

The employment figures are based on the CSO figures and the peak is taken by the CSO as Q2 2007