

International Forum of Independent Professionals

At the inaugural meeting of IFIP [International Forum of Independent Professionals], held on January 25th in the European Parliament, representatives of several organisations across Europe committed themselves to this new forum, intended to promote a wider awareness of the important economic role of independent workers in Europe.

The decision was taken to focus on European countries and not to create a new and structured organisation. IFIP will instead concentrate on connecting with, and enhancing, the work of national organisations already representing independents and freelancers.

IFIP has five aims:

- **Visibility:** to promote international awareness of independent professional life
- **Value:** to provide better understanding of the value this sector brings to economies
- **Resources:** sharing of knowledge and statistics, as well as other data of value to independents
- **Dialogue:** an improved communication between national organisations
- **Policy:** to provide a conduit for policy matters with the European Parliament and other international regulatory bodies

The inaugural meeting was chaired by Liz Lynne MEP, [Vice Chair of the Committee for Employment and Social Affairs].

Those attending the meeting confirmed their support for the five aims and have put in place initial plans for sharing of information in an effort to bring about a greater understanding of issues affecting independent workers in the different countries.

In particular a Europe-wide survey will be undertaken, so that consistent cross-border statistics can be collected to assist greater understanding of this vital sector of the European economy.

The meeting was followed by a reception in the Parliament building, hosted by the UK based freelance association, PCG and attended by MEPs and other invited guests.