

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Employers' Club for a European Apprenticeship Area recognised as "Good Practice" by the European Commission**

The European Commission has just published its first Compendium of Good Practices in apprenticeship promotion. Among the 46 initiatives selected from 226 members of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA), the **Employers' Club for a European Apprenticeship Area** led by EAM, features among the initiatives in the section dedicated to the international mobility of apprentices.

**Jean Arthuis**, former minister and founding president of Euro App Mobility, welcomes this recognition: *“This labelling by the European Commission is a recognition of the work accomplished collectively, with training centres and employers’ organisations. It confirms that apprentice mobility is a strategic issue for Europe and underlines that employers are key players. It is a source of pride for all those who have committed to developing this initiative, already present in 7 departments in France and set to expand across the entire EAM partner network.”*

#### **Why create an Employers' Club?**

The development of international apprentice mobility often comes up against a lack of understanding from companies, which struggle to see its benefits. **Jean-Christophe Sciberras**, national coordinator of the Club, clearly identifies the causes: *“Employers are not opposed to mobility — they simply do not know its benefits. When an employer hears another employer mention the benefits of international mobility or hosting an international apprentice, the conversation changes completely. This is precisely where the Club plays its role.”* The initiative was developed in collaboration with the three main French employers’ organisations — MEDEF, U2P and CPME — with the support of the Ministry of Labour, the Global Deal and the three consular networks.

#### **How does the Employers' Club work?**

**Guillaume Baudet**, Deputy Director General of EAM, in charge of the Club, describes how the scheme works in practice: *“We chose a grassroots approach, as close as possible to the realities of businesses. Local clubs have been set up at département level to bring together training institutions and employers, encourage peer-to-peer exchanges and develop pilot projects on a regional scale. Local spokespersons lead these networks, and a national coordinator ensures the link with representatives of major French and international companies.”* The Compendium of Good Practices highlights several key factors in the success of this approach: the support of national vocational training providers, the involvement of recognised figures in the apprenticeship ecosystem, and the ability to illustrate the benefits of mobility through concrete examples.

#### **A recognition that calls for going further**

The inclusion in the EAfA Compendium identifies the Employers' Club for a European Apprenticeship Area as an approach replicable at the European level, capable of inspiring other member countries in their efforts to develop apprentice mobility. **Andreas Gabriel**, Head of European Development at EAM and coordinator of the Coalition for European Apprentice Mobility, underlines the significance of this recognition beyond French borders: *“What the European Commission is recognising here is a method that can be transposed to countries familiar with apprenticeship in Europe. The obstacles that employers face regarding apprentice mobility are not unique to France — they are European. The strength of the Club is precisely to show that a network of committed employers, structured and rooted in local realities, can make a real difference. That is exactly the message we champion within the Coalition for European Apprentice Mobility With our European partners and under Erasmus+, we are also working on a label called EQAMOB to distinguish companies that use quality mobility for skills development.”*

#### **Press contacts**

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