



ECDL FOUNDATION LTD

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EU TASK FORCE REFERS TO ECDL AS “ICT SKILLS TOOL”

The European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) has been referred to as a tool for developing ICT skills and definitions in a recent report by the EU High Level Task Force for Skills and Mobility.

Set up by the European Commission at the Stockholm Council Meeting in June 2001, one of the key reporting areas of the Task Force was in relation to the development of a knowledge based EU workforce and society, facilitated through ensuring that all citizens acquire a range of essential skills.

Amongst the recommendations of the Task Force report was that Member States should ensure that all citizens acquire skills in the areas of literacy, numeracy, social competencies and information technology – with a focus on ICT skills, through tools such as the European Computer Driving Licence.

It also recommended that the EU should develop ICT skills definitions based on tools such as the European Computer Driving Licence to make them transparent and available within and between Member States, to be backed up by EU-wide standards and validation and accreditation and recognition schemes for ICT and e-business skills, with Member States being expected to comply with such standards.

This latest EU report further underscores the standing and recognition of the European Computer Driving Licence by European Governments as one of the significant contributing factors in creating a better skilled and adaptable workforce through ICT literacy and certification. Application of ECDL in conjunction with the development of broader ICT and e-business skills is intended to provide greater occupational and geographic mobility and adaptability for the effective functioning of the increasingly knowledge based European labour markets. It is also expected to result in opportunities for groups under-represented in the labour markets to achieve information society literacy and in doing so, increased prospects for employability.

The development of a knowledge based economy is a fundamental determinant of competitiveness and growth in the global market. ECDL is widely regarded as a key programme in ensuring the continuation of this development by providing a recognised essential ICT skills learning and certification framework to meet the growing demand of the European e-Society.

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