

Fury as Euro court rules the obese are disabled

By **Alison Little**
Deputy Political Editor

POLITICIANS, business leaders and health campaigners hit out yesterday at a "judicious" European court ruling that obese people could be legally entitled to special treatment at work because they are "disabled".

They warned the ruling by Europe's highest court would pile costs on firms for adapting work practices and offices for millions of staff which could fuel resentment from other staff who felt overweight colleagues were getting an easy life.

Health professionals also argued the ruling could be harmful if it reduced the incentive for people to try to lose weight by diet and exercise.

Judges in the European Court of Justice upheld advice they got earlier this year that being obese could be deemed a disability if it stopped someone participating fully at work.

It means employers across Europe could be legally obliged to make "reasonable adjustments" such as providing wider car parking spaces close to workplace entrances and bigger chairs, desks and fire escapes, or be sued.

The ECJ was asked by a court in Denmark to decide if obesity could be a disability in certain circumstances after 25st Dane Karsten Kalltoft claimed discrimination when he was sacked as a council childminder because of his weight.

It declared that obesity could be regarded as a disability if it hindered full and effective participation at work, even if it arose just from overeating.

Prime Minister David Cameron's spokesman emphasised that the ruling was not that obesity itself was a



Childminder Karsten Kalltoft was sacked and claimed discrimination

British job adverts for British workers in new deal with EU

By **Macer Hall** Political Editor

JOBSEEKERS in Britain are to get first sight of tens of thousands of employment vacancies after rules demanding Europe-wide adverts were watered down.

Under previous Brussels laws, any jobs advertised on the Government's Universal Jobmatch service had to go on an EU-wide website used by migrants looking for work.

Tory Employment minister Esther McVey, *pictured*, struck a deal with other EU states yesterday to ensure



'It's just another decision with no thought for business'