

PS/IB

16<sup>th</sup> November 2007

Mr Vladimir Spidla  
European Commissioner for Employment  
200 rue de la Loi  
1049 Brussels

Dear Commissioner,

The European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF) welcomes the decision of the EU Commission to include the revision of the EWC Directive in its work programme for 2008.

As you may know the EMF has been instrumental in concluding more than 340 agreements so far. Among these, 55 have become obsolete due to mergers and acquisitions processes. The EMF is also actively involved in assisting and guiding EWCs, especially in the event of cross-border restructuring.

The positive role played by EWCs within multinational companies and the value of workers' participation are undeniably recognised today. However, expectations towards EWCs are increasing and their potential still remains unexploited - especially with regards to the necessity to anticipate and manage change more effectively within companies.

This is why we believe that the EWC Directive should be revised rapidly. You will be aware that many EWCs have already written letters to the EU Commission and/or the European Parliament highlighting the need for an urgent revision of the EWC directive as demonstrated by their concrete experience.

In the EMF view, the revision process should remedy the legal shortcomings of the Directive, bring the EWC Directive in line with other regulations and take stock of the elements that have now become standard practice (i.e. training elements, additional meetings, etc.). Furthermore, in a changing environment situation, it is essential to ensure the optimisation of EWC potential by giving them a genuine role to play in shaping change in MNCs.

The EMF urges the EU Commission to act swiftly so that the revision is finalised by 2008 at the latest. The revision is far too long overdue. It should not suffer any further delays.

We would appreciate it if you could inform us about the concrete time-frame of the revision process.

Yours sincerely,



Peter SCHERRER  
General Secretary

CC: to the President of the European Commission, Mr Barroso