



Mr Vladimir Spidla  
Commissioner for Employment,  
Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels

11 April 2008

**Re: Revision of the EWCs Directive 94/45/EC**

Dear Commissioner,

European employers regret the decision made by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) today to reject the opening of negotiations on European works councils and to call on the European Commission to launch its own legislative process in order to revise Directive 94/45/EC.

We committed ourselves to take action and engage in negotiations with a strong motivation to find an agreement with the ETUC. As you have been separately informed, employers even proposed to ETUC to open negotiations very promptly, on 22 April, in order to reassure ETUC of our good will and to respond to their fear that negotiations would be protracted.

As a matter of principle, employers could however not agree to open pre-negotiations without involving all affected employers' organisations and their respective members in a democratic process.

We ask you to make your best efforts to enable a social dialogue solution on European works councils and in the meantime ask you not to enter into your own legislative process.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Benassi  
Secretary General  
UEAPME

Philippe de Buck  
Secretary General  
BUSINESSEUROPE

Rainer Plassmann  
Secretary general  
CEEP