

**Mr Vladimir Špidla**  
Member of the European Commission  
200, rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Brussels  
BELGIUM

24 April 2008

Dear Commissioner,

Next Tuesday, 29 April, the College of Commissioners will meet to prepare the review of its Social Agenda. One of the key elements to improve the functioning of European labour markets and social relations is the social dialogue.

As you will discuss the position the Commission wants to take in the debate on the revision of the European Works Councils directive, I want to reiterate on behalf of BUSINESSEUROPE our regret that ETUC has refused to enter into negotiations.

In a letter that ETUC General Secretary John Monks sent you on 11 April 2008, it is stated that it was not possible to agree with BUSINESSEUROPE either on an end date or on substantive amendments to be made to the Directive.

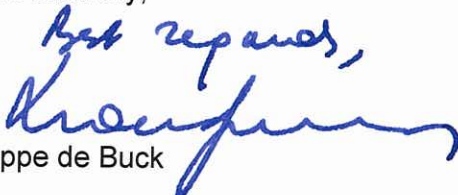
I remind you that in a meeting in your office on 7 April, we agreed on behalf of European employers to open negotiations as early as 22 April and to deliver a report to you, at your request, by the end of June on the progress made among social partners.

This shows the willingness of BUSINESSEUROPE and the other employer organisations to conduct the negotiations according to standard procedures and practices within the framework of the social dialogue at Community level.

We therefore still hope that you will be able to convince ETUC to enter into negotiations, which ought to be the basis for a legislative review of the EWC directive.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the other Members of the Commission.

Yours faithfully, .

*Best regards,*  
  
Philippe de Buck