



To: EMPL Members and substitutes

1 February 2012

Dear EMPL members and substitutes,

In view of the upcoming vote in the Employment Committee on the report by Ms Morin-Chartier on electromagnetic fields (EMF), we would like to provide you with the views of European companies on some of the amendments to the report.

This is on the basis of the comments made by BUSINESSEUROPE during the hearing of European Social Partners on this subject on 5 October 2011, followed up by written comments to Employment Committee members.

For European companies the revision of the directive must ensure legal certainty. This is necessary so that they can effectively implement the provisions. We are glad to see that some of the amendments put forward will assist in achieving this.

The aim should be to ensure a risk-based approach, targeted to cases where electromagnetic fields pose a real risk to workers' health and safety. The Commission's proposal is based on this, by distinguishing between adverse health effects and adverse safety effects. We are therefore concerned about amendments which remove this distinction.

We support that the scope of the directive is restricted to addressing risks due to known short-term adverse effects, and not long-term effects. This is necessary as there is no conclusive scientific evidence establishing a causal relation between long-term exposure to EMF and health effects. We are therefore not in favour of amendments which change this.

We also support the directive allowing a certain amount of flexibility for member states and companies and are concerned that some amendments would restrict this further than the commission's proposal.

Please find attached a list of voting recommendations, with more detailed justifications.

I hope that you are able to take these views into account in the vote on the report.

Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Philippe de Buck