



Mr Manfred Weber
Chair
EPP group
European Parliament
Sent by email

5 September 2024

Dear Mr Weber,

Re: Applying the discontinuity principle (rule 250) on European works councils (EWCs)

I am writing ahead of the Conference of Presidents meeting to be held on 12 September 2024 to reiterate our key concerns with the draft report on European works councils that was adopted by the EP EMPL committee on 3 April 2024. When adopting the draft report, the EP EMPL committee decided to postpone its vote on the mandate for inter-institutional negotiations.

BusinessEurope calls on you to recommend to discontinue the work conducted by the EP EMPL committee in the last term on EWCs, in line with the EP rule of procedure 250 “unfinished business”. There are three main reasons calling for this:

1. The political composition of the new European Parliament has changed as a result of the recent EU elections. Applying democracy means to give to the newly elected MEPs a real chance to consider where things stand in substance, rather than assuming that the past compromises still hold;
2. The recent political guidelines of President-elect von der Leyen found the majority support of the EP plenary last 18th July around a much stronger focus on industrial competitiveness than in the last cycle. This welcome focus on industrial competitiveness needs to be taken into account in the EP positioning on European works councils.
3. Effective transnational information and consultation of employees in well-functioning EWCs can bring real added value provided that such consultations take place without unduly delaying companies’ decision-making processes and implementation of their decisions. However, some key aspects of the adopted EP report would significantly hamper their capacity to make timely decisions, i.e. EWCs right to request a preliminary injunction for the temporary suspension of decisions of the central management.



Should there not be sufficient support in the Conference of Presidents for discontinuity, we urge on you to ensure that the EP mandate for inter-institutional negotiations is at least properly debated in plenary.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our views and remain at your disposal to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

Markus J. Beyrer