

Letter from Commissioner Špidla to BUSINESSEUROPE Secretary General Philippe de Buck, 5 May 2008

Translation: original French

Dear Sir,

Further to the College's seminar on 29 April, the Commission remains firmly involved on the issue of European works councils.

Nevertheless, it also continues to believe that the social partners are best placed to define specific means to improve the legislative framework in this area. This makes all the more sense bearing in mind the very fact that works councils represent a mechanism designed to secure and develop the social dialogue.

I am satisfied to note that you are favourable to negotiations between the social partners on this dossier.

The Commission continues to give priority to negotiations between the social partners with a view to identifying practical arrangements which make the functioning of European works councils more effective.

That is why I inform you that a final appeal has been made to the trade unions, asking them to reconsider their decision not to enter into negotiations on revision of the directive.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)