



European Trade Union
Confederation (ETUC)
Confédération
européenne des
syndicats (CES)



European Centre of
Employers and Enterprises
providing Public services



The voice of crafts and SMEs in Europe

Lászlo Andor
European Commissioner for Employment and
Social Affairs
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

16 January 2012

Re: Postponement of deadline for transposition of Directive 2004/40/EC on protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to electromagnetic fields at work

Dear Commissioner Andor,

In response to your letter dated 22 December 2011, European Social Partners would like to inform you that we support a further extension of the deadline for transposition of Directive 2004/40/EC on electromagnetic fields.

We agree that this is necessary from a practical point of view and to ensure legal certainty, given that the Council and European Parliament are very unlikely to be able to adopt a new Directive by the current transposition deadline of 30 April 2012.

Whilst we appreciate the efforts in the Council to move ahead on this dossier, we are concerned that significant changes have been drafted, without time for a thorough analysis of the potential implications. We therefore agree that sufficient time is required for the Council and European Parliament to find a satisfactory agreement and therefore support the proposed 2 year extension.

Given the concerns expressed regarding the original 2004 directive, it is important that the final outcome is a directive which can be effectively implemented by employers, and protects workers from the risks related to exposure to electromagnetic fields at work. This should be part of a more general process towards ensuring that EU health and safety policy is consistent and effective; provides a balanced approach between worker protection and the needs of enterprises; is proportionate and targeted at the most important workplace health and safety risks.

Yours sincerely,

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Philippe de Buck
Director General

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