



Mr Joost Korte
Director General for Employment, Social Affairs,
Skills and Labour Mobility
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

8 July 2019

Dear Mr Korte,

Thank you for your letter regarding the follow-up to the meeting of the Expert Group on European Works Councils (EWCs).

We understand the desire of the Commission to have both the employers and trade unions backing the development of a handbook on EWCs and regret that the trade unions reluctance to engage in this work means that this initiative will not be taken forward at this stage.

We remain convinced that the development of a handbook to raise awareness about the value of EWCs and support companies and workers that consider setting up an EWC and or are already involved in an EWC would be useful.

As highlighted in the Commission's report of May 2018 evaluating Member States' implementation of the European Works Council Directive, there is no need to revise the recast Directive. The challenges identified in the setting up and functioning of EWCs are practical rather than legal and would not be tackled by a revision of the directive.

In our view, it is both in the trade unions' and employers' interest to keep the legal framework governing EWCs stable and to support the development of a practical handbook that would help the companies and workers concerned to put in place EWCs or improve their real functioning, without prescribing how to go about this.

We therefore remain fully committed to continue working constructively on the development of such a handbook if circumstances change and the Commission decides to take this initiative forward at a later stage.

Yours sincerely,



Markus J. Beyrer