

UNICE

THE VOICE OF BUSINESS IN EUROPE

Mr Stavros Dimas
Member of the European Commission
European Commission

200 rue de la Loi

1049 Brussels

2 June 2004

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Commissioner,

Reply to first consultation on European Works Councils

I am pleased to send you herewith UNICE's reply to the first consultation of the social partners by the Commission on European Works Councils.

UNICE is convinced that the best way to develop worker information and consultation in Community-scale undertakings is through dialogue at the level of the companies concerned. It is strongly opposed to a revision of the EWC Directive. Successful implementation of the EWC Directive is due to the flexibility given to social partners at enterprise level to agree solutions best suited to their own circumstances. An intervention by the EU legislator would undermine the dynamic of gradual progress in the functioning of EWGs. Changing the rules of the game would also complicate and delay the enlargement of EWGs.

However, UNICE wishes to discuss this issue in the European social dialogue, using a similar method as when preparing the orientations of reference for managing change and its social consequences.

Pending the results of this work in the social dialogue, UNICE asks the Commission not to launch a second consultation on this subject.

Yours sincerely, *best regards*


Philippe de Buck