

PS/WJ jul18

22nd July 2008

Mr. Vladimír Špidla
EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Re: Restructuring at Siemens: Information policy towards EWC

Dear Mr. Špidla,

Over the past few weeks, the general public has been receiving information via the media about the planned restructuring at Siemens in Germany, Europe and worldwide.

Siemens' general management wishes to rapidly reduce the global workforce by about 18.000 jobs in a general restructuring effort.

The European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF) is working closely with the body of workers' representatives concerned: the European works council of Siemens. According to our knowledge, the EWC has not yet received detailed information about the projected workforce reduction. Once again, the media was informed about the restructuring before the workers' representatives.

Two weeks ago, the German economic committee of the local works council received detailed facts about the German sites that were to be affected and some generalised data about the European Union. The other countries still do not have any data about their situation and the workers' representatives in all the other European countries still are not informed. The members of the EWC have not yet been informed.

An extraordinary session of the EWC has been planned but will not be taking place until 1st August 2008 in Munich.

We have observed that, once more, elementary provisions of European law regarding information and consultation of workers have been disregarded in a blatant manner.

May I ask you, as a representative of the European Commission, to investigate this violation and to call on the company to respect the basic rights of the workers?

The Siemens case underlines how important it is to establish workers' rights to information and consultation within the EWC directive and to push forward the ongoing efforts to revise this directive.

General management has to inform the workers' representatives of any activities they intend to undertake in a timely and precise manner.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Scherrer
General Secretary