



European Trade Union  
Confederation (ETUC)  
Confédération Européenne  
des Syndicats (CES)



**Monsieur Xavier Bertrand**  
President of the Employment,  
Social Policy, Health and Consumer  
Affairs Council (EPSSCO)  
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Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Ministre,

Following your request at the informal meeting of Ministers for Labour and Social Policy in Chantilly on 10 July, we have had further discussions on the scope for joint advice by the social partners on the EWC "Recast" Directive.

It has been the express wish of the European Parliament, the European Commission, the French Presidency and trade unions to have a revision of the existing directive passed as soon as possible. In order to realise this objective in 2008 or early in 2009 we have decided to accept the Commission proposal for a directive on EWC (recast) of 2 July as the basis for the revision.

Given the tight time-scale, we have surveyed the restricted number of issues on which either side particularly considers that changes to that proposal should be sought. These are listed in the Annex to this letter, including suggested wording.

We will be calling on the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers to take our common views at annex into account in their consideration of the issues. ETUC and the European employers, BUSINESSEUROPE, CEEP, UEAPME, are prepared to inform their members about the extended possibilities offered by this revised directive.

We would be happy to come to meet you again if you consider that useful. We are sending a copy of this letter and its annex to Commissioner Spidla and to Mr Jan Andersson, Chairman of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

John Monks  
General Secretary

Philippe de Buck  
Secretary General

Andrea Benassi  
Secretary General

Rainer Plassmann  
Secretary General