



Brussels 14/12/2006
WC/bg

To the MEP

Ref. Revision of the EWC Directive

Dear friends,

The revision of the directive on European Works Councils (EWC) is always at the top of the ETUC agenda and today more than ever.

The Volkswagen case is only the most last evident cases of waves of restructurings in which employees are the ones who pay the higher price.

It urges a fast improvement of transnational information and consultation rights of employees. It has to go through a revision of the directive 94/45 aimed at raising the effectiveness of the measures provided in.

Concrete answers must be given to the following demands:

- Information and consultation must take place “in good time” in accordance with the legal meaning minted by ECJ and fixed in some more recent directives (namely dir.2001/86/EC and dir.2002/14/EC).
- A wider and unconditioned role for trade unions must be explicitly recognised. It operates in two ways:
 - I) providing effectiveness to the right of local trade unions to appoint their members;
 - II) right for the European Industry Federations to be represented.
- The threshold of employees to point out the scope of the directive should be reduced from 1000 to 500 employees.

These are only the most urgent demands. Looking at the experience gathered in the past years, ETUC has adopted a comprehensive plat form for the revision of the directive. Please find enclosed the document.

ETUC considers the revision of the directive unavoidable.

With best regards,

Walter Cerfeda
Confederal Secretary