

Brussels, 20th March 2007.

Dear colleague,

SDA and ETUC are convening a European Works Councils (EWCs) Conference to be held on 20th April 2007 in the International Trade Union House, Brussels.

The Conference will be held in the framework of the European project “*Effectiveness of information and consultation rights of employees and their evolutions. An action model for EWCs before the challenges of change*”, co-financed by the European Commission and headed by SDA in partnership with ETUC.

Approaching the ETUC Congress, we would like to confer a fresh impetus to EWCs to enhance their role in managing change. Nonetheless, the increasing mobility of companies and recent events, of which Volkswagen is the most impressive one, urge an in-depth reflection on the effective exercise of information and consultation rights of employees.

During the conference, we will analyse the weaknesses and successes of the EWC experience and will identify new fields of work for the future. The conference will launch two main messages:

- The need for a revision of the EWC directive is still standing while EWCs suffer a lack of legal instruments to make their rights fully recognised. Better rights for EWCs is always at the top of the European trade union agenda.
- It is time to enhance the trade union investments on EWCs. We have recorded that good cooperation between trade unions and EWCs is able to produce concrete benefits for the employees. We will explore these experiences (case study analyses) and will draw a model of action with special focus on company restructuring.

Working languages will be English, French, German, Italian, Polish and an extra language would be possible if needed.

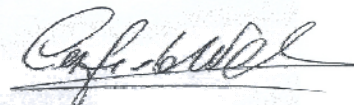
A draft agenda and registration form are enclosed. European Commission fundings will be used to refund EWC delegates selected through European Industry Federations. Other participants should cover their own traveling and accommodation costs.

We look forward to seeing you soon in Brussels.

Yours sincerely,



Claudio Stanzani
Directeur



Walter Cerfeda
Secrétaire confédéral CES



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

“Effectiveness of information and consultation rights of employees and their evolutions. An action model for EWCs before the challenges of change”, 20th April 2007.

ETUH - Bld du Roi Albert II, 5

1210 Brussels, Belgium

DRAFT AGENDA

- 8.30am Registration of participants
- 9.00am Opening and project presentation by the Conference Chair (Claudio Stanzani, SDA)
- 9.15am Trade Union objectives concerning the enhancement of information and consultation rights (Walter Cerfedo, ETUC)
- 9.30am Introduction to the case study analyses (Alexandre Martin, SDA)
Presentation RWE Energy (Uwe Tigges, Chairman RWE EWC)
Presentation Dim Branded Apparel (Alain Germain, Chairman DBA EWC)
Presentation Inbev (Aimé Vanoost, Chairman Inbev EWC)
- 10.30am Floor open to the delegates (Moderator: Norbert Kluge, ETUI-REHS)
- 11.30am Evidences for the revision of the EWC directive (Jean-Claude LeDouaron, ETUI-REHS)
- 11.45am Participation of representatives from new Member States in EWCs (Jozef Maurer, tbc)
- 12 pm Floor open to the delegates (Moderator: Marco Cilento, ETUC)
- 1 pm Lunch
- 2.30pm Round Table “A trade union strategy for EWCs”
Chair: Walter Cerfedo
Invited: European Industry Federations
- 3.30 pm Debate
- 4 pm Round Table “Improvement of information and consultation rights: revision of the EWC Directive”
Chair: Brian Bercusson (tbc)
Participants: Reiner Hoffmann (ETUC), Jeanne Schmitt (BusinessEurope), Armino Silva (European Commission), Edgardo Iozia (Ecosoc), Stephen Hughes, MEP (tbc)
- 5 pm Closing statement (Vladimir Spidla, European Commission)
- 5.30 pm Conclusions (John Monks, ETUC)

