

The recast EWC directive: Better information and consultation rights for European Works Councils? Conference in Brussels on 23rd and 24th March 2009

Thon Hotel - Address: Avenue du Boulevard 17, B-1210 Brussels (Métro: Rogier)

23rd March

- 09:45 Registration & coffee
- 10:15 Opening and chair of the first session
- **Claudio STANZANI**, Director of the Social Development Agency (SDA)
- 10:30 Good things come to those who wait and act? The recast EWC directive and its perspectives
- I. Contributions from the European Institutions
- **Vladimír ŠPIDLA**, European Commission - Commissioner DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
 - **Cyril COSME**, French Permanent Representation to the European Union, Social Attaché (*tbc*)
 - **Jan CREMERS**, European Parliament - MEP, Socialist Group
 - **Wolfgang GREIF**, European Economic and Social Committee
- II. Contributions from the European Social Partners
- **Jørgen RØNNEST**, BusinessEurope, Social Affairs Director
 - **Reiner HOFFMANN**, ETUC – Deputy General Secretary
- Followed by a debate
- 12:30 Lunch
- 14:00 Rectifying legal uncertainties for EWCs (**chair: Séverine PICARD**, ETUC - Legal Adviser)
- **Evelyne PICHOT**, European Commission, DG Employment - Legal Officer - EU Labour Law: The improvements of the recast directive
 - **Filip DORSSEMONT**, Catholique University of Louvain (UCL): The shortcomings of the recast directive
- Followed by a discussion on legal certainties with practitioners
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 16:00 Information and consultation rights in the view of the recast EWC directive – practical comments from EWC members and employers' representatives (**chair: Alexandre Martin**, SDA - Infopoint)
- **Marianne NAUD**, HR manager of Areva (*tbc*)
 - **Emmanuel COUVREUR**, EWC chairman, Groupe Renault
 - **Claudio SOTTILE**, EWC coordinator of Buzzì
- Followed by a discussion on "How will the recast directive be applied by the management and the EWCs?"
- 18:00 End of first day



24th March

- 08:30 Coffee
- 09:00 Opening and chair of the first session
- **Ludo VEKEMANS**, SDA
- The economic crisis and its impact on restructuring and employment in Europe
- **Béla GALGÓCZI & Vera GLASSNER**, Researchers at ETUI
- 09:30 Strengthening EWCs in times of the economic crisis and the role of the European Industry Federations and their affiliates
- **Patrick ITSCHERT**, ETUF:TCL, General Secretary
 - **Ivonne JACKELLEN**, UNI Europa, EWC coordinator
- 10:00 Discussion
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 10:45 Change, crisis, restructuring: better provisions of the new EWC directive? (**chair: Christian WEIS**, SDA)
- **Reinhard REIBSCH**, EMCEF, General Secretary, with **Bernd SCHUHMACHER**, EWC chairman of Reckitt Benckiser Group: Improving internal information and consultation procedures of EWCs
 - **Bruno DEMAITRE**, ETUI Training department with **Nico VAN DER PLAS**, EWC vice-chairman of Air France-KLM: Competence development for EWCs - Perspectives and requirements for innovative measures
- Followed by a discussion on the new provisions with practitioners (EWC members, TU coordinators etc.)
- 12:45 Conclusions
- **Reiner HOFFMANN**, ETUC, Deputy General Secretary
- 13:00 Lunch



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