



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG
The Director-General

Brussels, 14.03.07 003995
EMPL/F/1/FZ/mc D(2007) 4671

For the attention of the European
social partners' organisations
consulted under Article 138 of the
Treaty

Subject: Second-phase consultation of the European social partners on work-related musculoskeletal disorders

Dear Madam/Sir,

In accordance with Article 138(2) of the Treaty establishing the European Community, the Commission launched the first-stage consultation of the social partners on work-related musculoskeletal disorders on 9th November 2004. The European social partners were invited to give their opinion on the possible direction of Community action in this field.

The Commission received replies from eleven European social partners' organisations. The organisations representing the agricultural social partners announced their intention to start sectoral negotiations under Article 139 of the Treaty. These negotiations led to the adoption of a framework of action in November 2005.

Having carefully examined the responses from the European social partners, the Commission has decided to launch the second-stage consultation of the European social partners, in accordance with Article 138(3) of the Treaty. The Commission considers that there is a need for further Community initiatives to be taken in order to improve the prevention of work-related musculoskeletal disorders.

These initiatives are detailed in the enclosed consultation document adopted by the Commission on 21st February 2007. I would be grateful if you could send your opinion and comments within six weeks of the receipt of this letter.

The contact persons are: Antonio Cammarota (antonio.cammarota@ec.europa.eu) and François Ziegler (francois.ziegler@ec.europa.eu)

Yours faithfully,

Nikolaus G. van der Pas