



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

The Director-General

16.04.07 005827

Brussels,  
D (2007)

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

**Subject: Second-phase consultation of the European social partners on the protection of workers from risks to exposure to carcinogens, mutagens and substances toxic for reproduction**

Dear Madam,  
Dear Sir,

On 6th April 2004, the Commission launched the first-phase of the consultation of the European social partners on the protection of workers from exposure to carcinogens, mutagens and substances toxic for reproduction at work, asking them to give their opinion on the possible direction of further Community action.

All the European social partners who replied to the consultation underlined the importance they attach to protecting workers from the health risks associated with exposure to these substances. The first-phase of the consultation confirmed that action needs to be taken at Community level to introduce better and standardised methods across the EU, and to tackle situations involving workers' exposure. However, while all respondents acknowledged the relevance of the existing legislation, their views differ as to the strategy and direction of future action and which factors should be taken into consideration.

On 9th March 2007, the Commission decided to launch the second-phase of the consultation, provided for in Article 138(3) of the Treaty, in order to obtain the opinion of the European social partners on the content of a possible Community proposal in this area and in particular, on the questions set out in the enclosed document.

I would be grateful to receive your contribution within 6 weeks of your receipt of this letter. When responding to this request, you may wish to take into account the recently adopted Community Strategy 2007-2012 on Health and Safety at work: Improving Quality and Productivity at Work<sup>1</sup>.

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Yours faithfully,



p.o. Nikolaus G. van der Pas

Enclosure: Commission Communication on the second-phase of the European social partners on the protection of workers from risks to exposure to carcinogens, mutagens and substances toxic for reproduction.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2007)62