



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

The Director-General

20.12.07 021290

Brussels,
DG EMPL/F/1/FZ/ mc D(2007) 28915

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

Subject: Second stage of consultation of the social partners on protecting European healthcare workers from blood-borne infections due to needlestick injuries

Dear Madam/Sir,

In accordance with Article 138(2) of the Treaty establishing the European Community, the Commission launched in December 2006 the first-stage consultation of the social partners on protecting European healthcare workers from blood-borne infections due to needlestick injuries.

The cross-industry and sectoral social partners of the following sectors: Hospitals, Local and Regional governments, Cleaning industry and Insurance were invited to give their opinion on the possible direction of Community action in this field.

The Commission has received ten replies from different social partner organizations at Community level by the end of the six-week consultation period.

Having carefully examined the responses from the social partners, the Commission has decided to launch the second-stage consultation of the social partners at Community level, 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 protection of healthcare workers against the risks provoked by needlestick injuries.

These initiatives are detailed in the enclosed consultation document adopted by the Commission on 20 December 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 Francisco J. Alvarez Hidalgo (Francisco.Alvarez@ec.europa.eu) and François Ziegler (Francois.Ziegler@ec.europa.eu).

Yours faithfully,

Nikolaus G. van der Pas

Encl.: Second stage of consultation of the social partners on protecting EU healthcare workers from blood-borne infections resulting from needlestick injuries