



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INCLUSION

The Director-General

Brussels
EMPL.B.3/CTX/ins (2021)4498222

For the attention of the Social
Partners Organisations

Subject: Second phase consultation of the social partners under Article 154 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to chemical agents at work and to asbestos at work

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

Following the EU social partners' responses to the first phase consultation launched on 17 December 2020, concerning the possible revisions of Chemical Agents Directive¹ as well as the Asbestos at Work Directive², the Commission has identified possible avenues for EU action. In this context, the Commission is now launching a **second-phase consultation of European social partners, in accordance with Article 154(3) TFEU**.

The goal of the second-phase consultation is to discuss the possible content of, and relevant EU instruments for, the envisaged Commission proposal. The consultation also asks social partners whether they wish to enter into negotiations as provided for by Article 154(4) TFEU.

You will find the consultation document attached describing the content of the envisaged Commission proposal.

¹ Council Directive 98/24/EC of 7 April 1998 on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work, (OJ L 131, 5.5.1998, p. 11-23)

² Directive 2009/148/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work, (OJ L 330, 16.12.2009, p. 28-36)

The consultation is accompanied by an analytical document that brings together the main results of the first phase, deepens the analysis of identified challenges, discusses the need for, and added value of, EU action, and sets out potential avenues for such action. The accompanying analytical document provides evidence on the problem that EU action should address, presents the objectives, analyses impacts of the potential measures under consideration, and explores the added value of EU action. I would be grateful to receive your responses to this consultation by **30 September 2021**.

Please send your replies to EMPL-SOCIAL-DIALOGUE@ec.europa.eu.



Joost KORTE

Annex: Second phase social partners' consultation document
Analytical document