



Brussels
EMPL.C.2/WT/ins/1663145

Subject: First phase consultation of the social partners under Article 154 TFEU on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to carcinogens, mutagens or reprotoxic substances at work

Dear Sir or Madam,

The European Pillar of Social Rights⁽¹⁾ provides for a high level of protection of workers' health and safety at work. Ensuring healthy and safe work environments is vital to protect workers and uphold productivity. It also allows for a sustainable economic recovery.

A key objective of the EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2021-2027⁽²⁾ is to improve prevention of workplace accidents and illnesses. In order to turn this objective into concrete actions, the Commission is committed in this strategic framework to adopting by Q1 2024 a sixth legislative proposal for a revision of the Carcinogens, Mutagens and Reprotoxic substances Directive⁽³⁾ ('CMRD') addressing welding fumes, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, cobalt and its inorganic compounds, 1,4-dioxane and isoprene.

The Commission would like to get the views of social partners, in accordance with Article 154 (2) TFEU on the possible direction of European Union action aiming to further improve the protection of workers from risks related to the above-mentioned hazardous substances through a sixth revision of the CMRD. It also asks you if you would consider initiating a dialogue under Article 155 TFEU on any of the issues identified.

As announced in the recently adopted Commission Communication on social dialogue and in agreement with the European social partners, the two-stage consultation of social partners can be carried out through two ad-hoc meetings with the participation of all concerned recognised social partners and the possibility to send written contributions. This new procedure of the social partners consultation, which will be used on a case-by-

(1) Interinstitutional Proclamation on the European Pillar of Social Rights, [OJ C 428, 13.12.2017, p. 10-15](#)

(2) Communication from the Commission on EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2021-2027 – Occupational safety and health in a changing world of work, [COM/2021/323 final](#)

(3) Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens, mutagens or reprotoxic substances at work, [OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, p. 50-76](#)

case basis and in agreement with the social partners, will be tested through the legislative initiative subject to this consultation on the sixth revision of the CMRD.

The first ad-hoc meeting, corresponding to the first phase of the social partners consultation to gather the views of European social partners on the proposal, will be organised online on 16 March 2023. The delegations from each side will be coordinated by the cross-industry social partner organisations. The overall size of delegations should be limited to 25 representatives (except if higher interest), coming from EU secretariats and national members of cross-industry social partners as well as from European sectoral social partners.

Please find attached the background note prepared by the Commission services for the meeting. You are also invited to send a written contribution by 31 March 2023 to EMPL-SOCIAL-DIALOGUE@ec.europa.eu.

Yours faithfully,

Joost KORTE

Enclosure: First phase Consultation Background document

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