

Brussels, 5 February 2008

**- To all organisations affiliated to EFFAT**

---

**Re: European Commission Quizzing Companies & Employees on EWC Revision**

Dear Colleagues,

it has come to our attention that the European Commission has commissioned a study as part of its impact assessment evaluating the effects of any possible changes to the EWC Directive.

DG EMPL has asked GHK Consulting Ltd to assess “the costs and benefits associated with the operation of EWCs” and to “calculate the potential impact (costs and benefits) for companies of some proposed changes to the legislation”.

GHK is now contacting 80 companies and employee representatives to interview them over the telephone about the actual and potential costs, advantages and disadvantages associated with the operation of their EWC.

The Commission will also be directly inviting the companies that take part in this consultation to a meeting in Brussels later this Spring where the role of EWCs will be discussed.

In spite of a complaint from the ETUC, the study is being carried out without any direct input from the trade unions. So, please ensure that your members in EWCs who may be approached are aware of the ETUC and EFFAT position on revision and that their responses may have a lot of weight in deciding whether or not we achieve a revision of the EWC Directive.

We also ask you to let us know if EWCs that you are concerned with are approached and pass on any useful information about the questions asked and the answers given.

Thank you for your cooperation in this very important matter.

Yours fraternally

Simon Cox  
EWC/TNC Coordinator