

Ceemet's response to the second-phase social partner consultation on a possible revision of the EWC Directive (Directive 2009/38/EC)

Following the first-stage European social partner consultation on a possible revision of the European Works Councils Directive, the European Commission has launched its second-phase consultation of the social partners. The present document is Ceemet's response on this consultation.

Representing employers in a sector where many European Works Councils have been created from the start of their existence, Ceemet appreciates the added value of properly functioning EWCs. When they operate successfully, EWCs can facilitate and improve the communication between the management and employees, stimulate employee engagement in strategic development of the multinational companies, and encourage the creation of cross-border initiatives. Thus, EWCs can add value, both for the management and the employees.

As strong advocate for a social dialogue and considering the importance of EWCs for the social partners, we therefore believe that the issue which regards the operation of EWCs should be discussed within the context of the European social dialogue. Although we acknowledge the strong sectorial dimension of the topic – as EWCs predominantly exist in only a few sectors – we do not see the need of a sectoral solution and therefore sectoral negotiations.

But Ceemet has been informed about the willingness of BusinessEurope to enter into negotiations with ETUC on the topic with a view to concluding an agreement under Article 155 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. As a consequence, Ceemet supports the position of BusinessEurope to offer negotiations on a possible revision of the EWC Directive and hopes that ETUC will respond favourably to this proposal.

Considering our stance on the issue, Ceemet will not be providing a more detailed response on the questions addressed by the European Commission in the second-stage consultation document.

Brussels, 3 October 2023

About Ceemet

Ceemet represents the **metal, engineering and technology-based industry employers** in Europe, covering sectors such as metal goods, mechanical engineering, electronics, ICT, vehicle and transport manufacturing.

Member organisations represent **200,000 companies** in Europe, providing over **17 million direct jobs** and **35 million including indirect jobs**.

Ceemet is a recognised European **social partner** at the industrial sector level, promoting global competitiveness for European industry through consultation