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ECEG's press release on the Commission's proposal for a revision of the EWCs Directive

Today, the European Commission released a **proposal for a revised version of the Directive on European Works Councils (EWCs)**. According to the proposal, the legal standing of EWCs is set to be reinforced, penalties increased, and longstanding allowances for established bodies revoked.

According to the ECEG, the proposed changes are neither necessary nor expedient. We reject them for the following reasons:

1. The revision is pure actionism and raises concerns about challenging **well-established modes of collaboration** between workplace parties.
2. The suggested changes must at least **safeguard the existing status** of established European bodies, and allow employers to rely on their continuance, as originally intended in the Directive and its initial revision.
3. The current proposal fails to ensure swift and legally sound decisions, as the EWC's authority would no longer necessitate direct involvement. However, **direct involvement** is **crucial** for making a clear and legally secure distinction from the responsibilities of national bodies.

Petra Lindemann, Chair of the ECEG's **Working Group on Industrial Relations**, asserts:

"The EWC's rights to information and consultation on company decisions must maintain a sensible scope for organization and exercise. We see a need for action in the overdue digitalization of EWC working methods. Consultations and meetings of an EWC must also be possible virtually. This is the only way to ensure that opinions are formed in a timely and broad manner".



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About ECEG

ECEG, the European Chemical Employers Group, founded in 2002, is a recognised European Sectoral Social Partner, representing the chemicals, pharmaceuticals, rubber and plastics industries in Europe. Our sector provides approximately 3.3 million direct jobs in more than 94.000 enterprises.