



Brussels, 23 November 2007

Dear CPME members,

Today the CPME Executive Committee has been informed that the Council of the EU is ready to reach an agreement on the Revision of the European Working Time Directive at its forthcoming meeting on 5-6 December 2007 in Brussels.

It seems that the Commission's proposal will be widely accepted, meaning that most of CPME policy priorities<sup>1</sup> will not be taken on board. We understand that so far (2pm) only the Italian and Spanish Ministers will oppose this proposal. Therefore **that will not be enough to constitute a blocking minority.**

The agreement will contain the following points:

1. The inactive part of on call time will not be considered as working time.
2. The opt-out clause will be kept. A limit of 65 hours per week will be set.
3. The reference period for counting the average weekly working time will be extended to 12 months.
4. The length of the period within which equivalent compensatory rest is granted to workers will be set to 72 hours.

CPME Executive **URGENTLY CALLS** all its members to actively lobby their Health and Labour Ministers in order to once more explain the CPME position, particularly since even the ECJ rulings ruled that the inactive part of on call time is to be considered to be working time.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation and your prompt action.

Please do not forget to let us know the action that you will have undertaken on the issue.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Daniel Mart  
President

Lisette Tiddens-Engwirda  
Secretary General

Enclosure: CPME position on the revision of the Working time Directive (CPME 2004/155 Final [EN](#) / [FR](#))

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<sup>1</sup> CPME 2004/155 FINAL