



Rue Royale 45/3
B- 1000 Brussels
Tel : +32 2 2271040
Fax : +32 2 2198228
Mail : info@efbh.be
Web : www.efbww.org



Avenue Louise 66
B- 1050 Brussels
Tel : +32 2 514 55 35
Fax : +32 2 511 02 76
Mail : info@fiec.org
Web : www.fiec.org

THIRD JOINT STATEMENT
of the European Construction Industry's Social Partners
on the European Commission's Proposal for a Directive
on SERVICES IN THE INTERNAL MARKET
COM(2004) 002

EFBWW

is the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers, representing via its 57 national member trade unions in 23 countries 2,5 million workers from the building and woodworking sector. In its capacity as a European Federation, the EFBWW occupies a key position as observer of the social and economic situation in the construction sector.

FIEC

is the European Construction Industry Federation, representing via its 34 national Member Federations in 27 countries (24 EU & EFTA, BG, RO, TR) construction enterprises of all sizes, i.e. small and medium-sized enterprises as well as "global players", performing all kinds of building and civil engineering activities.

EFBWW and FIEC,

being recognised by the European Commission as the social partners representing the workers and the employers in the European Sectoral Social Dialogue in the Construction Industry, and

being conscious of the health and safety risks on construction sites, and confirming their explicit intention to contribute to the reduction in the number of accidents in the sector, and

referring to their actions, together with the European Occupational Safety and Health Agency, EIOSHA, in particular their joint declaration signed in Bilbao (Spain) on 19th November 2004, which provides the construction industry with a health and safety roadmap for 2005 and 2006 and which confirms that : "the only acceptable accident figure is "zero". [...] real progress is necessary, based on good regulations, [...]and that] prevention is better than reaction", and

taking account of the health and safety concerns expressed by the European Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) in their remarks on the services directive dated 8th March 2005,

agree, as a complement to their Joint Statements of 2nd April 2004 and 9th November 2004 and their individual position papers, on the following principles:

- ➔ The fact that the proposed directive, in **Article 24.1.2.a-d)** and **Article 5**, would forbid checks and controls necessary for the effective application and operation of the posting directive (96/71/EC of 16/12/1996) would also present major risks for ensuring the actual respect of health and safety rules on construction sites. With respect to the sector's accident figures and the numerous actions in favour of improving the situation, such a consequence would not be tolerable.
- ➔ According to health and safety experts, also other aspects of the proposed directive would have negative consequences for health and safety on construction sites.

Consequently, EFBWW and FIEC request that the draft directive be modified, in order to properly address this important issue and thus avoid compromising the health and safety of workers on construction sites.

For EFBWW

Harrie Bijen
Secretary General

19th May 2005

for FIEC

Ulrich Paetzold
Director General