



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou
Member of Cabinet

Reponse UE membre
M. Amadeo Bianco

Brussels, 22 01. 2009
EFZ D(2009) 65

FNOMCEO 27/01/09
RGP.0000823 2009
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Dear Mr Bianco,

Thank you for your letter of 11 November 2008 addressed to Commissioner Vassiliou regarding two Commission initiatives: the Proposal to amend the Working time Directive and the Proposal for a Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. Commissioner Vassiliou has asked me to reply on her behalf.

I note your comments in relation to the ongoing discussion in Parliament and Council of the proposal to amend the Working Time Directive (Directive 2003/88/EC). I have forwarded a copy of your letter to Commissioner Špidla who is responsible for employment law issues.

As you may be aware, the European Parliament has since adopted a position on the changes proposed by the Council¹. Since the Parliament's position differs substantially on some issues from that agreed in second reading by the Council, it is likely that the amending proposal will shortly go through a 'conciliation' process, where the Parliament and Council discuss areas of difference and try to reach a mutually acceptable solution. The Commission participates in this process, and will explore all possible avenues for helping the co-legislators to reach a generally acceptable solution. The Commission will shortly be publishing its own Opinion on the amendments proposed by the Parliament.

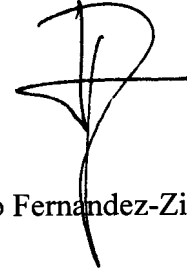
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Mr Amadeo Bianco
FNOMCeO
Piazza Cola di Rienzo, 80/A
IT - 00192 Roma

¹ Position of the European Parliament dated 17th December 2008, EP-PE_TC2-COD (2004) 0209, ref. P6_TA(2008)0615).

I would also like to thank you for your comments and general support for the Commission Proposal for a Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare² adopted by the Commission in July 2008. The Proposal is now being examined by the Council and the Parliament. We will take your comments into consideration in our future work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eduardo Fernandez-Zincke', written over a horizontal line.

Eduardo Fernandez-Zincke

² COM(2008) 414.