Maintaining the Transposition Deadline of the Revised Posting of Workers Directive

Dear Commissioner Schmit,

On behalf of the European Trade Union Confederation, together with the European Trade Union Federations EFBWW, EFFAT, ETF, industriAll and UNI Europa, we contact you with a request to maintain the 30 July 2020 transposition deadline of the 2018/957 revised Posting of Workers Directive.

It has come to our attention that BusinessEurope in a letter addressed to the European Commission has requested the application of the new rules be postponed. The letter suggests Covid-19 could motivate such a postponement, without any further explanations to what element of the revised Directive would constitute a particular obstacle in view of the crisis. On the contrary, the need for clear and enforceable rules, as highlighted by the letter, necessitates an urgent and effective implementation of the revised Directive without delay.

The entry into force of the revised Posting of Workers Directive on 30 July 2020 does not come as a surprise. The much needed revision of the Directive was presented in March 2016 and finally adopted by the legislators in June 2018. A postponement of its entry into force would send the wrong signal from the European Commission to Member States, employers and workers, at a time when the EU needs to uphold high social standards and the protection of workers. There can be no second-class workers, not even in times of crisis.

Equal treatment as a fundamental right of all workers can never be considered a burden. Posted workers are active in many sectors deemed essential to society, and must not be left behind in the crisis as a result of their employers having exercised the freedom to provide services under EU law. Experiences already show that Covid-19 exposes posted workers to particular challenges, as outlined in the ETUC Note attached to this letter. The conditions of posted workers urgently need to be improved, in view of the current crisis as well as an important step on the road to recovery and a more Social Europe.

For all these reasons, the ETUC strongly encourages the European Commission to maintain the original transposition deadline foreseen in the revised Posting of Workers Directive.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to receiving your assurances to our concerns.

Yours sincerely,
Attachment: ETUC Note on Posted Workers and the COVID-19 outbreak