

Working Time Directive: another disappointment

Commenting on the failure by the European Parliament and Council to reach an agreement on the highly controversial Working Time Directive today, Ben Butters, Director of European Affairs at EUROCHAMBRES, said: *"It is very disappointing to see that after five years of lengthy negotiations, an agreement on the Working Time Directive has not been reached. This is predominantly due to the parliament's intransigent opposition to the 'opt-out', which has been taken up in a majority of Member States. The fact that the current directive will stay in place will inevitably lead to further infringement cases by the European Court of Justice and will thus prolong the damaging legal uncertainty in many Member States."*

EUROCHAMBRES had already criticised the European Parliament's deletion of the 'opt-out' provision from the rule of the maximum working time of 48 hours per week as damaging to businesses' flexibility and capacity to react to fluctuations in demand. This is particularly counter-productive in the light of the economic crisis.

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