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Onderwerp: Deregulation is threatening workers' health and safety

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Brussels, 02/12/2011

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) sent a letter to EU Heads of State and Government to express serious concerns about the report from the European Commission on "Minimizing regulatory burden for SMEs (Small and medium-sized enterprises) to be discussed at the next European Council. The report has far-reaching consequences for workers.

Although the ETUC recognises the important contribution made by SMEs to create jobs and growth, it opposes the proposal to exempt them from EU legislation.

Exempting small companies carrying out low risk activities from producing a written risk assessment, as proposed by the Commission, is a threat to workers' health and safety.

Furthermore, the ETUC insists that any review of legislation concerning employment and social policy must involve the social partners. The ETUC calls on the Council not to support further deregulation and to take action to protect working conditions, equal treatment and fundamental rights.

ETUC letter to the EU Heads of State and Government: http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/Letter_...

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