



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
**MINISTRY OF LABOUR, FAMILY  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

MINISTER'S OFFICE

Kotnikova ulica 28, 1000 Ljubljana

T: +386 1 369 77 04

F: +386 1 369 78 29

E: [gp.mddsz@gov.si](mailto:gp.mddsz@gov.si)

[www.mddsz.gov.si](http://www.mddsz.gov.si)

European Commission  
Commissioner Ms. Marianne Thyssen  
B-1049 Brussels  
BELGIUM

Date: 3. 5. 2016  
**Subject: Update of the Carcinogens directive**

Dear Commissioner Ms. Thyssen,

the protection of workers against occupational hazards related to the exposure to carcinogens and mutagens is of great importance. Therefore we would like to express our support to endeavours of Ministers of The Netherlands, Federal Republic of Austria, Kingdom of Belgium and Federal Republic of Germany, that have addressed a letter to the European Commission already in March 2014, stating an urgent update of the Carcinogens directive (Directive 2004/37/EC).

We recognise the work the European Commission has done in this field since, and are glad to be informed that 'the preparatory work to amend the CMD is now at an advanced state, with a proposal for a first set of carcinogenic substances expected to be adopted by the College in May 2016, which should be followed by a proposal for a second set of substances by the end of 2016.'<sup>1</sup>

So far, only three binding limit values for exposure to carcinogens have been established at European level. There are large differences in the level of protection of workers in the European Union and therefore we believe it is necessary to reach an agreement, together with social partners on European and national level, and urgently update the substances and limit values in this field. Republic of Slovenia has already set 46 binding limit values for exposure to carcinogens and ranked 158 risk related carcinogenic and mutagenic substances. Furthermore, these rules will be revised and updated in dialogue with social partners in 2016.

We would also like to commend to the Netherlands EU Presidency, which will organise a conference on Tackling work-related cancer end of May 2016. It is important that we highlight existing and new insights into the problems associated with carcinogens and the ways to reduce exposure to these substances.

Yours sincerely,

  
dr. Anja Kopač Mrak  
Minister



<sup>1</sup> EC letter to Ms. Esther Lynch, Confederal Secretary of ETUC on 4th April 2016.