



Date: 4 March 2016

To:

Mr. Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of European Commission  
[frans-timmermans-contact@ec.europa.eu](mailto:frans-timmermans-contact@ec.europa.eu)

Ms. Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility  
[cab-thyssen@ec.europa.eu](mailto:cab-thyssen@ec.europa.eu)

Dear Mr. Timmermans and Ms. Thyssen,

Occupational cancer kills estimated 100,000 people every year in the European Union of which 440 are Slovenians. The cost to individuals, families and society is enormous. Occupational cancer can be prevented by setting European binding workplace exposure limits for carcinogens.

Netherlands in its Programme of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (1 January – 30 June 2016) committed to press for work-related cancer to be combated by expanding workers' protection against a wider range of carcinogens. This will involve amending the Directive [2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work](#) as it still sets binding workplace exposure limits for only three carcinogens.

Occupational cancer is the most common work-related cause of death in EU. We therefore call to European Commission to amend already in 2016 the Directive 2004/37/EC with binding workplace exposure limits for 50 most common carcinogens at workplace. We need European exposure limits to avoid different level of prevention on the single European market.

[ZSSS](#) is the largest trade union confederation in Slovenia. We hope to be able soon to report to our members on your action concerning the setting of binding exposure limits!

Regards,

Lučka Böhm  
Executive secretary ZSSS for OSH

Dušan Semolič,  
President ZSSS