



## Zveza svobodnih sindikatov Slovenije

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For:  
Ms. Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner  
Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility  
Wetstraat 200  
1049 Brussels

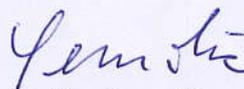
Dear Ms. Thyssen,

Every year according to European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU OSHA, <https://osha.europa.eu/>) cancers induced by dangerous chemicals at work kill 100.000 people in EU. Slovenian workers are among them. The current EU legislation has failed to deliver adequate prevention. The EU exposure limit values cover too few workplace carcinogens and mutagens. There are only five EU binding limit values and 113 EU indicative occupational exposure limit values as compared to national limit values for 158 chemicals in Slovenia, 751 chemicals in Belgium, 514 chemicals in France, 385 chemicals in Sweden and 358 chemicals in the United Kingdom etc. Furthermore, there are important differences between national limit values.

Such differences within the common European market are unacceptable and they lead to different level of protection of workers' health in different member states. We, therefore, call to European Commission for harmonizing of the existing limit values in all EU member states at the same highest level of protection. We call for your initiative as European Commissioner to reach this goal also with amendments to EU Occupational Safety and Health Strategic Framework 2014-2020.

As the first step in this direction, we call for immediate revision of Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work. The existing European limit values for occupational exposure need to be updated and at least 50 new binding exposure limits for carcinogens and mutagens are to be added as proposed to you in December 2014 by European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC, [www.etuc.org](http://www.etuc.org)). We also call that the revised directive includes protection of workers' health against chemicals toxic for reproduction.

Regards,

  
Dušan Semolič,  
President ZSSS\*



\* ZSSS is the most representative Slovenian trade union confederation