

15 October 2014

To all UNI Europa ICTS affiliates

Dear colleagues,

Following our first lobby action on the telecom single market legislation in April 2014, we need to continue our effort to ensure that the European ICT workers and their unions are respected as stakeholders in the sector.

On 3rd April 2014, the European Parliament has passed its position in the first reading. Though there have been some positive amendments¹ to the initial legislative proposal, we are still very concerned as there have been no clarifications in the text as regards the concrete investment plans or the impact of the regulation on employment in Europe.

Currently, the legislative process is continuing and the Council of Ministers is discussing its position on the regulation. At this stage, it is very important that we raise awareness of our concerns among European politicians and decision makers. We need to engage in further lobbying activities on the local, regional and national level across the EU. It is very important that we address the Council of Ministers via the national level, and that we promote our position among the Members of the European Parliament - especially those that are newly elected. They need to understand that trade unions have a say when it comes to issues like investment and employment in the ICT industry.

Concretely, we would like you as UNI Europa ICTS affiliates to use your regional and national networks to contact decision makers on the regional and national level, such as ministers responsible for telecom and industry, ministerial staff, party leaders and representatives, and of course your regional Member of the European Parliament.

With this joint lobbying initiative of UNI Europa members we want to convince national and European decision makers to take our concerns into consideration when discussing the telecom single market in the second reading. In order to better coordinate a European-wide lobbying effort, we would like you to engage in concrete lobbying activities in your countries, i.e.

- Write a letter to your national or local Member of the European Parliament and ask for a meeting with them either in your region or with UNI Europa in Brussels to present our position
(members of the employment committee:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/empl/home.html>,
members of the industry committee:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/itre/home.html>);
- Contact Ministers or ministerial staff and other politicians in order to meet them and to discuss the UNI Europa concerns.

¹ Cf. Amendments 234,241 and 235, 242 regarding article 2, paragraph 2 on the principle of net neutrality and specialised services. Also article 8a (AM 117) on spectrum harmonisation and article 39 paragraph 1 (AM 229) on the review mechanism.

In order to facilitate these two activities, we would like to provide you with some documents that we hope will be useful. You will find enclosed

- A letter that you can use as a model when first contacting politicians and other decision makers
- The updated UNI Europa ICTS position paper on the telecom single market proposal to be sent to politicians, other stakeholders and decision makers

Please take into consideration that many politicians will not necessarily be familiar with the rather technical issues we want to discuss. So it could be a good approach to develop your arguments in a more simplified way.

As the European Commission is keen on finalising the whole legislative process as quickly as possible, it is very important that you take contact urgently with MEPs and other national politicians, i.e. from now on until the beginning of November. Please tell us which initiatives you take and which responses you receive. This will be important for further follow up activities.

We hope that you will find these documents helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further questions and support.

Yours sincerely,

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