



EFBWW NEWSLETTER

E-CARD REJECTED IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 21 March 2018, the Internal market Committee of the European Parliament rejected the Commission's proposal for an E-card by 21 votes to 14. This is a victory for the EFBWW and for the European trade union movement that a legislative initiative which could facilitate social dumping has been stopped. This is also a victory for the construction industry in Europe. In a joint press statement, the EFBWW, our social partner FIEC and the organization representing the small building employers EBC states: *"The acceptance, by a majority of MEPs in IMCO, EMPL, JURI, ITRE and ECON, of the construction industry's warnings against possible negative consequences of this proposed legislation must not be taken as opposition to the proper functioning of the Internal Market. On the contrary, it is an important signal that the Internal Market freedoms, the creation of a level playing field, appropriate tools to prevent abuse and fraud and the enforcement of the law have to go hand in hand, in order to be efficient and acceptable."*

For strategic reason, the IMCO decided not to confirm its rejection by a plenary vote. This means that the E-card is not fully off the table yet, and the Council still has the possibility to act. The EFBWW calls on the affiliates to follow up on the rejection of the IMCO and to contact their governments to ensure that the E-card will be finally rejected.

TRILOGUE AGREEMENT ON THE POSTING DIRECTIVE

On 19 March the European Parliament, Council and Commission held one last trilogue meeting to confirm the agreement reached on 1 March. This agreement was confirmed on 25 April by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs. A revision of the Posting Directive has been on top of the political agenda for the EFBWW since 2007, demanding that the Directive should guarantee equal pay for equal work according to host country conditions. The agreement in the trilogue means that the Directive is expected to be formally adopted by the plenary of the European Parliament and the EPSCO Council in June 2018. The EFBWW will make a detailed legal analysis of the Directive. Our overall assessment is that the revised Directive brings important improvements in a number of areas, but that it also contains some uncertainties and unresolved issues.

Dietmar Schäfers
President EFBWW

Sam Hägglund
General Secretary EFBWW