

Your Address

MEP Address

Date

Dear xxxxxxxx

I am writing about the amended Working-Time proposals which will soon be debated in the European Parliament. The Common Position, agreed at a meeting of the Employment Council on 10th June 2008, retains the right for individuals to opt-out of the 48 hour maximum working week should they wish to do so. It also contains protections to ensure that individuals who choose not to sign the opt-out are not treated unfavorably as a result.

It is essential that these provisions are retained in the final text of the Directive. Keeping the opt-out is vital for our business and the employees who run it. Whilst not all individuals who sign the opt-out regularly work more than 48 hours per week, it is vital that they are able to do so when necessary, in order to meet fluctuations in demand or to contribute to specific projects which require short periods of high intensity work. Given the increasingly challenging economic climate a decision to remove the opt-out would significantly reduce the flexibility of our business, and our ability to adapt to the pressures these circumstances generate. It would also remove a source of competitive advantage that has been crucial in allowing our business and other businesses across the UK, to prosper and grow in recent years. In our view, losing the opt-out would significantly reduce the attractiveness of the UK as a place to do business. For employees, who are protected against exploitation through the voluntary nature of the opt-out, the overtime the opt-out offers can also be a valuable way of supplementing family income if they wish.

Please add a section here on the importance of the opt-out in your sector/for your business.

We strongly urge you not to amend the Common Position reached by the Council in June when the European Parliament votes in Plenary in December.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you wish to discuss any of this further.

Yours sincerely

XXXXXXXXXXXX