

## Health, safety and environment model clause for EWCs

European Works Councils must be involved in health and safety, says Britain's T&G - Transport and General Workers Union - following its conference in March 1997 on *Workplace Safety, Health, the Environment and European Works Councils*.

"Why should a T&G member in Wales be exposed to dangerous solvents at work when a Swedish colleague employed by the same firm has seen exactly the same solvents used in the same type of production replaced by safer water-based products? Companies think and act in a global setting, trade unions have to do the same. European Works Councils are a place for monitoring and checking differences in health, safety and environmental standards across Europe", said T&G leader Bill Morris launching the conference which worked out a **model health and safety clause for EWCs**. The TUTB's Guide Health to and Safety for European Works Councils was a key discussion document.

Copies of the conference report are available from the T&G, Transport House, 16 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JD. Tel: 0171 828 7788. Fax: 0171 630 5861.

### **Model European Works Councils health and safety clause**

#### **Safety, Health and the Environment**

This European Works Council will consider safety, health and environmental issues from all plants and processes that are party to the EWC agreement. The intention will be to operate the same high safety and environmental standards in all affected workplaces at all times.

To help achieve this goal, the employer must ensure EWC union representatives are provided:

- information on the number of deaths, serious injuries, injuries requiring time off work and near misses at each plant. Details of any reports in the company's knowledge concerning possible occupational or environmental health problems relating to the company's activities and their extent must also be provided.
- details of all SHE enforcement activity at the plant: Letters issued, notices served and prosecutions taken by enforcement agencies. The outcomes of all these actions will also be communicated to EWC union representatives.
- Reports of any assessments of risks from workplace and environmental hazards (including chemicals, biological hazards, noise, dust, vibration, stress, violence, ergonomic problems and summaries of the findings of any health or medical surveillance). The findings of any environmental audits will be made available.
- The resources to participate fully and effectively in SHE discussions, including any training required to interpret technical sections of reports/environmental audits.
- Full details of the SHE regime for each plant and process, including number of safety representatives/delegates, the training they are provided and the resources made available (time, facilities, access to experts/support) for them to perform their safety activities.

T&G - Transport and General Workers Union, London, 1997

**European Works Councils and the Europeanization of industrial relations**

The European Trade Union Institute has published the proceedings of its joint conference at the end of 1996 with the European Trade Union Confederation on European Works Councils and the Europeanization of industrial relations.

They are available from the European Trade Union Institute, Bd Emile Jacqmain, 155, B-1210 Brussels, price 300 BEF (in English only).  
Tel: 32 2 2240470. Fax. 32 2 2240502.