



Mr Vladimir Spidla  
Commissioner for Employment,  
Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 17/11/08

**Framework agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector**

Dear Commissioner,

Following previous letters in which HOSPEEM and EPSU separately informed you about their current discussions on the possibility to take joint action in the field of the prevention of sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector, we are glad to inform you that we finally agreed to negotiate a framework agreement in accordance with article 139 EC Treaty.

We are indeed convinced that the social partners are the best placed to find the most adequate response for management and labour to face this challenge at all levels.

We know that this decision comes much after the usual consultation mechanism, but we are sure that you will understand the reason behind, namely the need for both parties to undergo an in depth internal assessment on the readiness of the respective constituencies to engage in such a difficult exercise. We have now reached this stage and we are therefore confident in the success of our negotiations, which we would like to start in January 2009.

We count on your cabinet and on DG employment to support the negotiating process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Godfrey Perera'.

**HOSPEEM**  
Godfrey PERERA  
Secretary General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carola Fischbach-Pytzel'.

**EPSU**  
Carola FISCHBACH-PYTTEL  
Secretary General

Copy to:

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