

## **UNI Europa calls on MEPs to reject the “Innovation Principles” on Horizon Europe Regulation and Decision**

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

The upcoming EU Parliament vote on the Horizon Europe regulation taking place in Strasbourg on Wednesday 12 December 2018 will see members of the EU Parliament deciding on the “innovation principle” for the first time. This “innovation principle” could have grave adverse effects on social, employment, health and environmental policies in EU decision-making.

The “innovation principle” presents a new form of impact assessment to ensure that “whenever policy or regulatory decisions are under consideration the impact on innovation should be assessed and addressed”. It is not a principle of law, but a tool that creates more leverage for business interests in the early phase of decision making. The “innovation principle” has the potential to severely risk undermining the Precautionary Principle and, in turn, EU social and environmental protection.

UNI Europa, the European Services Workers Union, holds serious concerns about the “innovation principle” for the following reasons:

- It is promoted as a counter-balance to, and could weaken the impact of, the existing Precautionary Principle that was adopted by the EU to prevent serious harm to human health or the environment;
- It could be used as a tool to stop any regulation before it even reaches the democratic debate;
- Innovation is a means to achieve social, economic or environmental purposes, and is not a goal or “principle” in itself.

UNI Europa further emphasises that there is no need for an “innovation principle” as it has been conceived. In fact, innovation happens all the time. An uncompromised Precautionary Principle can actually foster innovation (e.g. when setting ambitious environmental targets for industrial products). Rather than foster innovation, the “innovation principle” could even hinder innovation by keeping old (and possibly harmful) products on the market as a result of having weakened existing legislation under revision.

UNI Europa calls on MEPs to reject the “innovation principle” in the Horizon Europe Regulation and Decision.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oliver Roethig". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'O' being particularly large and stylized.

Oliver Roethig

Regional Secretary of UNI Europa