

## **In support of the hairdressers' social dialogue agreement and against derogative gender remarks!**

The European social partners for hairdressers signed in 2012 a social dialogue agreement aimed at improving the work environment for hairdressers across Europe. By suggesting ways to limit the consequences of the use of harmful chemicals and by proposing ways to lessen the physical strain on hairdressers, the agreement seeks to improve the status of the sector, lower the sick leave and improve the career path of hairdressers.

The social partners asked the European Union to transform their agreement into EU law, a right granted by the EU Treaty to the social partners (Art. 155). However, since the signature, the European Commission, the EU's quasi-executive, has deliberately stalled opening the legislative process. Not only did the Commission fail to act, derogative and discriminatory remarks have been made from the very top of the EU Commission: "The EU should not be concerned with blond women on high heels" stated former Commission President Barosso with a smirk. He was echoed by Stoiber, the mastermind behind the EU's plan to "cut all unnecessary bureaucracy", who said: "The EU should not concern itself with bans on high heels for hairstylists or the composition of Neapolitan pizzas".

Given that the vast majority of hairdressers are women, these remarks are both derogative and discriminatory, unacceptable and outrageous.

This resolution calls on the World's Women Conference to stand behind the social agreement, to remind the EU Commission of Art. 155, and together with UNI Europa refute and object to the damaging and discriminatory remarks from the Commission.