



**EUROPEAN TRADE UNION
CONFEDERATION - ETUC (CES)**



**INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION
CONFEDERATION (ITUC)**

Brussels, 18 December 2006
JM/TJ/sw

Ms Benita Ferrero-Waldner
Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy
Mr Louis Michel
Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid

[Via e-mail:benita.ferrero-waldner@ec.europa.eu](mailto:benita.ferrero-waldner@ec.europa.eu)
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Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to express our serious concern that the EU's "smart sanctions" directed towards the Zimbabwe government may be relaxed or abandoned when they are reviewed early next year. At a time when trade unionists in Zimbabwe have been so savagely attacked and as the Zimbabwean economy descends into disaster, it would send completely the wrong signal if the EU backed down on sanctions now.

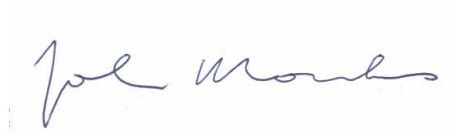
As you know, the EU adopted these sanctions in 2002, subsequently updated in 2004, 2005 and 2006. They include an arms embargo, a freeze on assets, and visa restrictions for senior government officials. As part of the procedures agreed under the EU-ACP Cotonou Convention, the EU set various "benchmarks", and Zimbabwe's progress towards meeting these benchmarks determines whether the measures should be revoked or renewed. We are seriously concerned that the Zimbabwe government is undertaking a major effort to have the sanctions revoked, and is making particular use of the preparations process for the forthcoming EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in 2007 as a bargaining chip in that regard. In order to maintain pressure on the Zimbabwe government, it is vital that the EU refuses to accept their argument that they have made progress.

Please find attached the complaint sent to the ILO in September 2006 by the ICFTU, documenting the extensive repression of the trade union movement in Zimbabwe. For additional information, we attach a useful document produced by the London-based

Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, entitled "ZIMBABWE'S FAILURE TO MEET THE BENCHMARKS IN THE COTONOU AGREEMENT".

We would ask the Commission to do all within its powers to ensure that the EU's present sanctions regime is renewed.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Monks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

John Monks
General Secretary ETUC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy Ryder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Guy Ryder
General Secretary ITUC