

**COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/23/EC**

of 7 April 1998

**on the extension of Directive 97/81/EC on the framework agreement on part-time work concluded by UNICE, CEEP and the ETUC to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 100 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament<sup>(1)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee<sup>(2)</sup>,

Whereas the Council, acting in accordance with the Agreement on Social Policy annexed to Protocol (No 14) on Social Policy annexed to the EC Treaty, and in particular Article 4(2) thereof, adopted Directive 97/81/EC<sup>(3)</sup>; whereas, as a result, the said Directive does not apply to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

Whereas the Amsterdam European Council held on 16 and 17 June 1997, noted with approval the agreement of the Intergovernmental Conference to incorporate the Agreement on Social Policy in the EC Treaty; whereas it pointed out that a means had to be found to give legal effect to the wish of the United Kingdom to accept the Directives already adopted on the basis of that agreement and those which might be adopted before the entry into force of the new treaty;

Whereas at the Council of 24 July 1997, the Council and the Commission agreed to put into effect the conclusions adopted at the Amsterdam European Council; whereas they also agreed to apply the same procedure, *mutatis mutandis*, to future Directives adopted on the basis of the Agreement on Social Policy; whereas this Directive seeks to achieve this aim by extending Directive 97/81/EC to the United Kingdom;

Whereas the fact that Directive 97/81/EC is not applicable in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland directly affects the functioning of the internal market; whereas the implementation of the framework agreement annexed to the said Directive, and in particular the principle of non-discrimination between

part-time and full-time workers in all the Member States, will improve the functioning of the internal market;

Whereas the adoption of this Directive will make Directive 97/81/EC applicable in the United Kingdom; whereas, from the date on which this Directive enters into force, the term 'Member States' in Directive 97/81/EC should be construed as including the United Kingdom;

Whereas the United Kingdom should benefit from the same period of two years that was granted to other Member States to bring into force the necessary provisions to comply with Directive 97/81/EC,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

*Article 1*

Without prejudice to Article 2, Directive 97/81/EC shall apply to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

*Article 2*

The following paragraph shall be inserted in Article 2 of Directive 97/81/EC:

'1a. As regards the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the date of 20 January 2000 in paragraph 1 shall be replaced by the date of 7 April 2000'

*Article 3*

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Luxembourg, 7 April 1998.

*For the Council*

*The President*

D. BLUNKETT

<sup>(1)</sup> Opinion delivered on 1 April 1998 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

<sup>(2)</sup> Opinion delivered on 25 March 1998 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 14, 20. 1. 1998, p. 9.