



Supporting the Public Services Sector  
for Establishing and Promoting EWCS

# LEGISLATION AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR EWCS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES SECTOR

EWCS are bodies representing employees in companies and groups of companies operating in more than one EU Member State. Their purpose is to facilitate the information and consultation of employees on issues affecting the company at European level.

The legislation governing EWCS in Spain, for example, is Law 10/1997 of 24 April 1997 on the rights of employees to information and consultation in Community-scale undertakings and groups of undertakings. This law transposes into Spanish law Council Directive 94/45/EC of the Council of the European Union, which establishes minimum standards for the establishment and operation of these committees, as is the case in other EU countries.

The public services sector includes activities such as public administration, education, health, social services, transport, energy, water, postal services and telecommunications. These activities may be managed by public or private entities and may have a Community dimension if they meet the legal requirements for the establishment of a European Works Council.

The establishment of a European Works Council in the utilities sector can be an instrument for social dialogue and for improving the working conditions of employees. However, it can also give rise to certain difficulties, such as the diversity of national regulations, the complexity of the organisational structure of public entities or the reluctance of some employers to recognise this right for employees.

