

## Registration

I hereby make a binding reservation for the 18<sup>th</sup> Hamburg Conference on 26 and 27 January 2026:

Fax: +49 40 / 43282263 Email: [info@ewc-academy.eu](mailto:info@ewc-academy.eu)

Name

Company / Location

Invoice address

Telephone

Email

Function in EWC

☐ Please book a single room at the price of **€ 167.-** per night (incl. breakfast and VAT) for \_\_\_\_ nights.

Arrival on: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure on: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I do not require a hotel / I will book myself.  
☐ I require a global invoice including accommodation.

Date / Signature:

The conference fee is **€1,695** per person plus VAT. The price includes meals during the conference, interpretation, the social event and the seminar documents. Overnight accommodation is to be paid directly to the hotel. Registrations will be confirmed in writing. The participation fee must be made by bank transfer prior to the event. In case of cancellation after **13/11/2025**, 50% of the participation costs will be charged as a cancellation fee. In case of cancellation after **15/01/2026**, 100% of the participation costs will be charged as a cancellation fee.

## Additional seminars:

### EWC and SE Introductory Seminar

Montabaur castle, 7 - 10 April 2026

At our annual introductory seminar for members (including future members) of European Works Councils, SE Works Councils and Special Negotiating Bodies, several seminar modules will be covered in parallel at two levels.



- EWC and SE initiation seminar (for beginners)
- From a "song and dance act" to a fully-fledged consultation body (for advanced participants)

The Montabaur castle (photo) is located at the high speed train station halfway between Frankfurt am Main and Cologne.

### In-house Events

#### Individual dates on request

Many European works councils organise in-house training in conjunction with a plenary or select committee meeting. There are also in-house seminars that are held independently of the regular meetings and lasting several days up to a whole week. Such seminars are specifically tailored to meet the needs of the respective company.

#### Legal basis for attending the conference:

Members of European Works Councils from EU countries as well as the Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein can request central management for time-off work and to cover conference expenses under Article 10(4) of EU Directive 2009/38/EC. In most cases the EWC agreement or the SE Participation Agreement explicitly provides for an entitlement to training. This usually also applies to delegates from Switzerland, the UK and other non-EU countries. Members of European works councils governed by German law may attend in accordance with Article 38 (1) of the German EWC Act. Members of SE works councils governed by German law may participate in accordance with Article 31 of the SEBG. German works council members may attend in accordance with Article 37 (6) of the Works Constitution Act.



View of the St. Pauli Landing Piers from the conference room

Interpretation  
German - English

# 18<sup>th</sup> Hamburg Conference

**for European and SE Works Councils**

**Hamburg, 26 + 27 January 2026**

Legal basis for participation to the conference:  
Article 37 (6) German Works Constitution Act or  
Article 38 (1) of the German EWC Act i.c.w.  
Article 10 (4) of the EU Directive 2009/38/ECG

Monday, 26 January 2026, 9 a.m. - 5 a.m.

## Current Issues in EWC and SE Work



**Professor Dr Reingard Zimmer**, Berlin  
Professor of Labour Law at the Berlin School of Economics and Law

- Opening, conference chair and moderation



**Dr Werner Altmeyer**, Hamburg  
Managing Director of the EWC Academy

- Latest developments in the EWC and SE landscape and recent court rulings



**Rudi Kennes**, Antwerp  
Member of the European Parliament (The Left) and former Deputy EWC Chairman at General Motors

- Current status of the revision of the EWC Directive

On 21 May 2025, a provisional agreement on the text of the new EWC Directive was reached in the 'trilogue' between representatives of the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the European Commission. The new directive is to be officially adopted on 6 October 2025 and enter into force before the end of 2025. This can be seen as a major success for the trade unions, which were able to push through 80% of their demands. Rudi Kennes was personally involved in the trilogue negotiations and will report on them – also from the perspective of a former EWC member.

Further information: [www.ewc-news.com/en022025.htm#1](http://www.ewc-news.com/en022025.htm#1)



**Dr Marcus Meyer-Erdmann**, Brussels  
Senior Researcher at the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and Assistant Professor at Rotterdam University

- Current EWC and SE data

What is the practical evidence of a good-quality EWC or SE agreement? For twenty years, the ETUI has maintained an online database and statistically evaluated these texts, e.g. in terms of the number of meetings, entitlement to training, operating resources, confidentiality rules, information and consultation procedures, and the distribution of seats by country (including outside the EU). The growth in SE works councils is particularly strong. In 2018, for the first time more SE works councils were established than European works councils. How many of the approx. 1,200 councils operate 'by law' without agreement? What were the approx. 170 legal disputes of recent years about?

Further information: [www.ewc-news.com/en022025.htm#5](http://www.ewc-news.com/en022025.htm#5)



**Marlis Kripke**, Oldenburg in Holstein  
Chair of the Eppendorf SE Works Council  
■ Opportunities for action by an SE Works Council in the event of workforce downsizing

On 27 January 2025, the SE works council and the central management of Eppendorf agreed on pan-European principles for the socially acceptable restructuring of the company. The agreement came about because the SE works council of the Hamburg-based manufacturer of laboratory equipment exercised its rights of initiative, which are laid down in the SE participation agreement. Employees in small countries without employee representation can contact the SE works council directly, which has a right of dialogue with central management and can monitor compliance with the principles.

Further information: [www.ewc-news.com/en012025.htm#8.3](http://www.ewc-news.com/en012025.htm#8.3)

Tuesday, 27 January 2026, 9 a.m. - 5 a.m.

## The new EWC Directive



**Ralf-Peter Hayen**  
Former head of legal department at the German Trade Union Confederation head office



**Dr Werner Altmeyer**  
Managing Director and Consultant at the EWC Academy

- The key changes in the new EWC Directive and the most important differences from SE law
- Where do existing EWC agreements most likely need to be amended? How and when can such renegotiations take place?
- How can the financial framework for experts, legal disputes and training, as well as the format of meetings (in person or via video conference) be regulated?
- What sanctions will apply in future for violations of EWC rights?
- Current situation of EWC law in Ireland following the High Court ruling (expected in October 2025)
- The most important court rulings in SE law in recent years



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## Organisational

**Price: € 1,695.- plus VAT**

The price includes the conference participation, interpretation (German - English), all catering and the social event.

**Venue: Harbour Hotel Hamburg**

**€ 167.- per night incl. breakfast and VAT**

[www.hotel-hafen-hamburg.de/en](http://www.hotel-hafen-hamburg.de/en)

The Harbour Hotel Hamburg is located above the St. Pauli Landing Piers and offers an impressive view over the harbour and the river Elbe during the conference. Our rooms are located in the hotel's new building the "Cabin Residence" and offer modern flair and functional comfort.



Last symposium in January 2025 with over 50 participants from eight countries, in the middle MEP Gabriele Bischoff (Social Democratic Party).

**Side event on Monday evening:  
Elbe River cruise with dinner on board**

At 6:30 p.m. we will board the Viktoria cruise ship from the St. Pauli Piers just below the Hotel for a threehour sightseeing tour. A delicious buffet will be provided on board (included in the conference fee).

