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**PRESIDENCIA ESPAÑOLA DE
LA UNIÓN EUROPEA**

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**“Conferencia europea
de contribución a la evaluación
a medio término de
la estrategia comunitaria
de salud y seguridad en el trabajo
2007-2012”**

Barcelona, jueves 3 y viernes 4 de junio de 2010

MR. LAURENT VOGEL

**“European conference
for the mid-term review
of the community strategy
2007-2012
on health and safety
at work”**

Barcelona, Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th June 2010

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Is there still any Strategy of the European Commission on Health and Safety at work?

Laurent Vogel

European Trade Union Confederation

June 2010

The General Context

- Increasing social health inequalities in most of the EU countries
- Which part of those inequalities can be attributed to working and employment conditions?

Work related mortality

- Conservative Estimation by International Labour Organisation and European Agency on Health and Safety
 - About 160.000 work related deaths per year
 - Accidents are just a minor part (no more than 5% in most of the countries)
 - Work related deaths are mainly due to long term diseases
 - Chemical exposures play a central role

Mortality: the burden of work related cancers

- More than 2 million new cases per year in the EU
- More than 1 million deaths
- Conservative estimation: 8% are work related cancers
- Research project GISCOP 93: reconstructing the professional life of patients with cancer in hospitals of a popular suburb of Paris. More than 80% of the patients have been exposed to carcinogens during their working life

Workers exposed to carcinogens and prevention measures carried out at the workplace (SUMER 2003, France)

	Exposed	Among the exposed workers: without collective prevention
ALL THE WORKERS	13.5	42.3
YOUNGER THAN 25 yr	17.1	42.6
CONSTRUCTION	34.9	51.8
INDUSTRY	21.2	33.9
AGRICULTURE	21.9	77.8
SERVICES	8.7	40.9
Higher/Managerial occupations	3.3	24.0
Intermediate occupations	11.1	35.0
Qualified blue collar wk	30.9	43.6
Not qualified blue collar wk	22.5	47.1

Percentage of cancers attributable to occupational exposures (Imbernon, 2003)

Localisation	Low estimation	High estimation
Lung cancer	13%	29%
Pleural Mesothelioma	85%	88%
Bladder cancer	10%	14.2%
Nasal and Sinus cancer	24%	41%
Leukaemia	5%	18%

Life expectancy by social class in France (1999-2003): Men

	Life expect with handicap at 35 yr	Life expect without handicap at 35 yr	Total Life Expect. At 35 yr
Managers	12.6 yr	34.0 yr	46.6 yr
Blue collar workers	16.5 yr	24.4 yr	40.9 yr
Total population	15.1 yr	27.7 yr	42.8 yr

Life expectancy by social class in France (1999-2003): Women

	Life Expect with handicap at 35 yr	Life Expect without handicap at 35 yr	Total Life Expect. At 35 yr
Managers	15.5 yr	35.4 yr	50.9 yr
Blue collar workers	21.8 yr	26.8 yr	48.6 yr
Total population	20.0 yr	28.8 yr	48.8 yr

The 2007-2012 Strategy

- Quantitative target: 25% reduction only for accidents
- No clear vision of the priorities
- No strong commitment from the Commission
- No strong link with major developments in the field of chemicals: REACH
- How to enforce the structural pillars of prevention: workers representatives for health and safety; preventive services and labour inspection?

The key issue remains: harmonisation of the working conditions in EU 27

- To avoid social dumping resulting in the lack of prevention: huge gaps between countries, branches, employment status
- Key role of EU legislation
- Principal gaps:
 - Revision of the carcinogens directive: including reprotoxics and defining compulsory limit values
 - Musculoskeletal disorders on the basis of a holistic approach of work organisation v/ « simplification agenda »

In 2010...

- Still no official proposal about the revision of the carcinogens directive (consultation started in 2004)
- Exclusion of formaldehyde from the 3rd list of indicative limit values
- Still no official proposal on MSDs (consultation started in 2004)
- The Commission will try again to reduce the health and safety protection of workers in the field of working time

Better regulation as a major threat against workers health and safety

- Health and safety management is a key issue
- It is basically about information: collecting, treating, discussing with workers representatives, documenting and planning
- The better regulation mantra: « you can reduce the information obligations without affecting the content of legislation » but is there any content in the framework directive independently from information obligations?
- For a detailed analysis: <http://hesa.etui-rehs.org/uk/newsevents/newsfiche.asp?pk=1400>

The Deloitte consortium's findings

- The choice of the Standard Cost Model (SCM) without any scientific evaluation
- The results of the SCM
 - Less than 20 interviews in six countries
 - More than 95% of extrapolation
 - Administrative burden is defined by the employers: what they would avoid if the regulation were removed

Some examples for the Commission's evidence based policy

- The declaration of an accident takes 0 second in Maltese companies with less than 50 workers, 5 minutes in any Swedish company independently from the size and 1400 minutes in Romania
- 100 % of German employers would avoid any form of risk assessment if regulation were abolished
- Among the countries where interviews were carried out Portugal accounts with 70% of the costs with approximately 20% of the workers
- 98,6% of administrative costs from two EU directives is caused by ILO obligations (while they have been ratified by about half of the countries)
- The only certain figure: the Commission paid 17 mn € to the Deloitte consortium for that kind of research

The role of the Stoiber group

- No critical assessment of the Deloitte « findings »
- Supporting a deregulatory perspective
- Inflating the promised cost reduction: from 1bn to 2 bn only for the « risk assessment » exemption in small companies (the promised reduction cost is probably higher than the real cost!)
- November 2009: Mr Stoiber became chairman of the advisory board of the Deloitte group ! ... and is still chairman of the Stoiber group

The Commission Communication of October 22, 2009

- The central message to employers: health and safety management is an administrative burden, not an investment
- Reducing the number and length of workplace inspections by adopting a « risk based approach » (?)
- Exempting very small companies with low risks from a documented risk assessment
- Asking Member States to avoid « goldplating » v/ the OSH directives define minimal standards !

The real picture is quite different if you don't look through the glasses of SCM

- SME's spend surprisingly little time on health and safety activities
- Around 60% spend an hour or less a week with one in four spending no time at all
 - Source: Heriot-Watt University, « Health and safety in the small to medium-sized enterprise... », HSE research report RR 578, 2007

More information: <http://hesa.etui-rehs.org/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://hesa.etui-rehs.org/uk/default.asp>. The page features a navigation bar with links for 'research', 'education', and 'health & safety'. The main content area displays several news items:

- 'Better regulation': construction trade unions voice occupational safety: concerns**
The European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) rejected, on 18 January, the European Commission's deregulation proposals in the field of health and safety at work.
[Read more]
- The ETUI stimulates cooperation among standardization experts in Spain**
How could standardisation improve health and safety conditions for workers working with machines or employed in sectors such as services and nanotechnologies? This was the question debated by experts from the Spanish trade union movement and the Spanish National Standards Organization on December 11-12, 2009 in Madrid. This ETUI project aims at promoting future collaboration between these two major actors in the field of standardisation.
[Read more]
- Chemical risks: ETUI cooperates with Japan's National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health**
On the invitation of Japan's National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (JNIOSH), Tony Musu, a researcher at the European Trade Union Institute's (ETUI) health and safety department, was in Japan from 11 to 15 January to participate in seminars on chemical risks. The aim was to disseminate information on REACH, the new European legislation on chemical substances, and to discuss the expected benefits of the new law on the health of workers exposed to hazardous substances.
[Read more]

On the right side, there are sections for 'HESAmail' (Subscribe to our electronic newsletter), 'Networking' (Login), and 'Latest news' with a list of recent articles:

- ▶ Nano-materials in construction still limited, unlike expectations and uncertainties (report)
- ▶ Scientists from 28 countries condemn Quebec's asbestos export
- ▶ New data confirms link between bisphenol A and heart disease
- ▶ Firms challenge acrylamide inclusion in the EU's list candidate for authorisation
- ▶ UK inquiry calls for public register of nano in foods
- ▶ Bangladesh: pesticides pushers kill thousands
- ▶ USA: black workers

At the bottom left, there is a logo for the European Union and text stating: 'The ETUI is financially supported by the European Community'.