



The Community Strategy on Health and Safety at Work

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The Community Strategy on Health and Safety at Work 2002 - 2006 : “Adapting to change in work and society”



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© ***Community Strategy 2002-2006***

© ***Preliminary assessment***

© ***Perspectives 2007-2012***

© ***Reflections on priorities***



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- Manual handling of loads

- Carcinogens
- Biological agents
- Chemical agents
- Physical agents:
 - Noise
 - Vibrations

- Asbestos

- 98/24/CE on chemical agents

Framework Directive
89/391/EEC

to encourage improvements in
health and safety at work

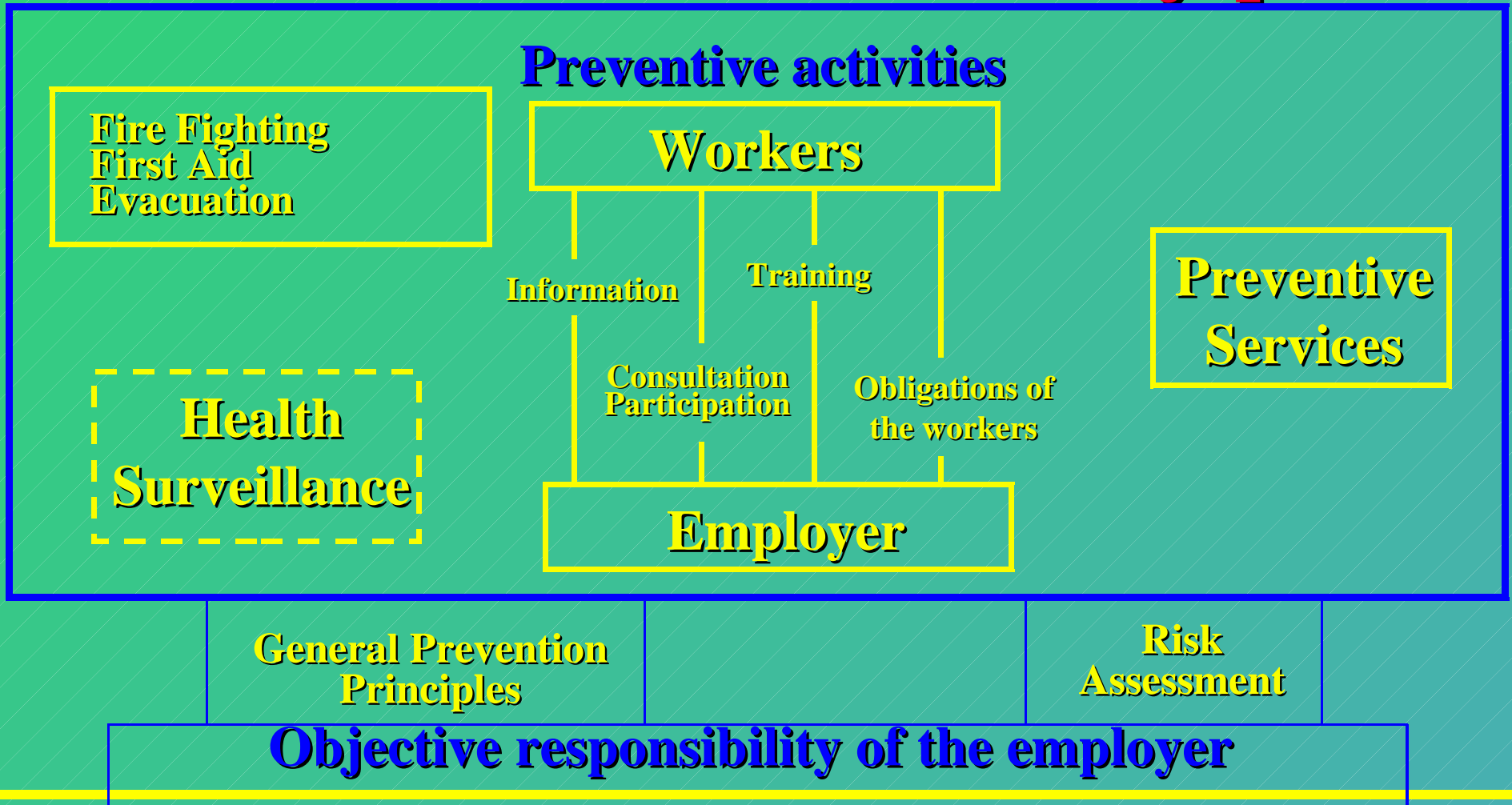
- Workplaces
- Work equipment, scaffolding
- Personal protective equipment
- Display screen equipment
- Safety signs
 - Pregnant women
 - Young people
- Construction sites
- Mineral-extracting industries
- Drilling in mineral-extracting industries
- On board vessels
- Medical assistance
- Explosive atmospheres "ATEX"



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Prevention Health and Safety policies





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Some statistical data on accidents at work in the EU :

- ❖ 139 million persons in employment*
 - ❖ 500 million working days lost per year resulting from accidents*
 - ❖ Almost 350 000 people have been forced to change jobs*
 - ❖ Nearly 300 000 have various degrees of permanent disability*
 - ❖ 15 000 are entirely excluded from the world of work*
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The new Community policy on Health and Safety at Work :

- Global approach to well-being at work*
 - Consolidating a culture of risk prevention*
 - Combining various instruments*
 - Involving all players:*
 - Public authorities,*
 - The social partners,*
 - Enterprises,*
 - Public and private insurers*
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Changes in society :

- *More females in the workforce*
- *An ageing active population*

Changes in forms of employment :

- *Diversified forms of employment*
- *Different types of contract*
- *Different forms of work*

Changes in nature of risk :

- *New and emerging risks*
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Towards a new Community strategy on Health & Safety :

- ⇒ *For a Global approach to well-being at work*
 - ⇒ *Strengthening the prevention culture*
 - ⇒ *Combining instruments and building partnerships*
 - ⇒ *Preparing for enlargement*
 - ⇒ *Developing international co-operation*
-



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For a Global approach to well-being at work :

- ❖ Continuing to reduce the incidence of accidents and occupational diseases;*
 - ❖ Mainstreaming the gender dimension into risk evaluation;*
 - ❖ Prevention of social risks: stress, harassment, violence, ...;*
 - ❖ Enhancing prevention of occupational illnesses: priority to asbestos, hearing & musculo-skeletal problems;*
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For a Global approach to well-being at work (2):

- ❖ Taking account of demographic change in terms of risks, accidents and illnesses: young people and ageing workers;*
 - ❖ Taking account of changes in forms of employment, work organisation and working time;*
 - ❖ Taking account of the size of firms: SMEs and very small firms;*
 - ❖ Analysis of new or emerging risks (psychosocial risks);*
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Strengthening the Prevention Culture

- ❖ *Improving people's attitude towards risks:*
 - *Integration into education (school + vocational training);*
 - *Awareness raising (SMEs, ...);*
 - *Anticipation of new and emergent risks*
 - ❖ *Better application of existing law:*
 - *The prevention services;*
 - *Labour Inspection activities;*
 - *Protection of young workers;*
 - *Administrative and penal sanctions*
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Strengthening the Prevention Culture (2) :

- ❖ *The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work should play an important role:*
 - *Setting up a Risk observatory;*
 - *Organising exchanges of experience and information, with the support of EUROSTAT;*
 - *Integrating the acceding States into information networks;*
 - *Refocusing the European Week on Health and Safety at Work on end-users;*

[*http://osha.europa.eu*](http://osha.europa.eu)



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Combining instruments and building partnerships

Adapting the legal and institutional framework

- Existing directives*
- Taking account of new risks*
- Rationalisation of the legal framework*
- Rationalisation of the committees*

Encouraging innovative approaches

- Benchmarking and identification of best practices*
- Voluntary agreements by the social partners*
- Corporate social responsibility*
- Economic incentives*

Working to mainstream OSH

- Integration into the European Employment Strategy*
- Other Community policies: transport, environment, fishing activities, ...*



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Preparing for enlargement :

- ⇒ *Programmes of technical assistance*
- ⇒ *Exchange of experiences*
- ⇒ *Strengthening the social dialogue*
- ⇒ *Collection and analysis of data on accidents at work and occupational diseases*



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To adapt the legal and institutional framework, the Commission will :

- ⊙ *Draw up, in conjunction with Advisory Committee and the social partners, guidelines & best practices on how to apply Directives*
- ⊙ *Propose extending the scope of the “Carcinogenic agents” Directive*
- ⊙ *Adapt existing legislation: Musculo-skeletal disorders,
Visual display screens,
Ergonomics improvements*



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To adapt the legal and institutional framework, the Commission will (2) :

- ⊙ Examine the appropriateness and the scope of proposing a Directive on psychological harassment and violence at work;**
- ⊙ Take the necessary steps to consolidate existing Community Directives;**
- ⊙ Propose admitting representatives of the acceding States into the Advisory Committee ACSHH, SLIC and into the Bilbao Agency and the Dublin Foundation**



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To encourage innovative approaches, the Commission will :

- ⊙ **Consider to proposing amendments to the Employment Guidelines on the reduction of accidents and occupational illnesses, and on stress;**
 - ⊙ **Analyse the role of the ESF in terms of promoting a healthy and safe working environment;**
 - ⊙ **Continue work on harmonising European Statistics and on constructing indicators to follow up the new Community Strategy;**
 - ⊙ **Seek to improve knowledge on the economic and social costs of occupational accidents and illnesses**
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Strategy 2006-2006: elements for an assessment

- ◎ *Improved awareness*
- ◎ *Common objectives in the agendas*
- ◎ *Resource mobilization*
- ◎ *“Catalytic” effect*
- ◎ *EU enlargement*



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Perspectives:

***Next Community Strategy on
Health and Safety at Work 2007-
2012***



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Next Community Strategy: elements for reflection and debate

- ⊙ **Continuity and innovation**
- ⊙ **Role of Community Legislation**
- ⊙ **Role of Labour Inspectorates**
- ⊙ **Management systems of OSH**
- ⊙ **Risk perception and changing attitudes**



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Next Community Strategy: elements for reflection and debate

- ⊙ *Preventive services*
- ⊙ *Longer working life*
- ⊙ *High risk sectors*
- ⊙ *Impact of immigration*
- ⊙ *Mental Health at Work*



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Conclusion :

- ◎ *Every accident, every injury, every fatality is a stark reminder that more needs to be done to protect the health and safety of European workers*
- ◎ *The Community Strategy aims to reduce the current unacceptable toll of occupational accidents and diseases by using a combination of traditional and innovative instruments at EU and national levels*



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***Thank you
for your
attention***

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