

US/EC Cooperation in the field of Safety + Health
441.2(103) *Text*
445.8

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

RC	HV	NB	Boite 3
TH	11-4-1979	SD	Boulevard du Regent, 40
	12 250		1000 Brussels
	SK		April 10, 1979

The Honorable Hendrikus Vredeling, Vice President
Commission of the European Communities
200 Rue de la loi
1049 Brussels

Dear Mr. Vice President:

I have the pleasure of forwarding to you, on behalf of Dr. Anthony Robbins of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and Dr. Eula Bingham, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, the terms of agreement-in-principle reached during their meeting of December 14, 1978 with Representatives of the Commission of the European Communities, regarding action in fields of common interest and means of cooperation in occupational health and safety.

The following areas of common interest have been noted as most appropriate for cooperation at this stage:

- exchange of information and practical experience on ambient sampling strategies, methods of sampling, and analytical techniques for airborne toxic agents at the workplace;
- exchange of scientific information (data and critical analysis) used for the establishment of exposure limits at the workplace;
- exchange of information on health and safety problems posed by certain toxic compounds, branches of industry and industrial activities (i.e., hazard alert systems, occupational hazard surveys, registry of toxic effects of chemical substances, etc.);

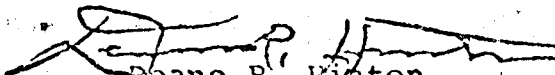
- early exchange of proposed regulations regarding exposure limits at the workplace (and other health and safety regulations);
- exchange of information regarding developments in the fields of:
 - carcinogenic substances at the workplace
 - toxicology testing programmes;
- exchanges of information on aspects of occupational safety and health measures which may affect US-EC trade and aspects of any future international fair labor standards;
- exchange of information on education and information programmes related to health and safety of work;
- exchange of information on methodology for collecting accident and morbidity data;
- exchange of information on control technology;
- exchange of information on accident and morbidity statistics as well as etiology of accidents;
- exchange of information on research programmes (especially protocols for epidemiological investigations) in the occupational safety and health fields;
- joint organization of (or participation in) technical meetings, workshops, conferences, as appropriate.

It is understood that the aforementioned list of topics may be modified later in light of new knowledge.

Officials could meet once or twice a year on the basis of concrete issues of common interest to plan, coordinate and review cooperation in the areas described and in such new areas as may be agreed upon. Technical experts could also meet for detailed discussions on previously agreed topics. The results of the meetings and technical exchanges will be brought to the attention of policy-level officials, who could meet ad-hoc.

Dr. Bingham and Dr. Robbins hope that you will be good enough to confirm your concurrence in the above so that all parties can consider this exchange of letters as outlining the scope and form of our present cooperation in occupational safety and health.

Sincerely,



Beane R. Kinton

Your Excellency,

I was very pleased to receive your letter of 10 April 1979 concerning the proposed cooperation between the United States Federal authorities (Department of Health, Education and Welfare - National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, and the Department of Labor - Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and the Commission of the European Communities in the field of occupational safety and health.

In the name of the Commission and in my own, I am pleased to confirm our agreement on the list of topics and cooperation procedure mentioned in your letter and reproduced in annex, and I do hope for a fruitful exchange. I thank you most cordially for your cooperation in this matter.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my high consideration.

Encl.

His Excellency
Mr. Deane R. HUTTON
Chief of Mission of the United States of
America to the European Communities
40, Boulevard du Régent

1000 BRUSSELS

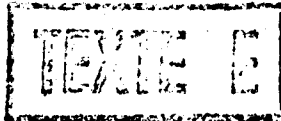
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Les domaines d'intérêt commun qui ont été désignés comme les plus favorables à la coopération à ce stade sont les suivants :

- échange d'informations et d'expérience pratique concernant les stratégies et les méthodes de prélèvement dans l'environnement et les techniques d'analyse appliquées aux agents toxiques dans l'air sur le lieu de travail;
- échange d'informations scientifiques (données et analyse critique) servant à déterminer les limites d'exposition sur le lieu de travail;
- échanges d'informations sur les problèmes de santé et de sécurité posés par certains composés toxiques, certains secteurs de l'industrie et certaines activités industrielles (par exemple les systèmes d'alarme en cas de danger, les enquêtes sur les risques professionnels, l'enregistrement des effets toxiques des substances chimiques, etc.);
- échange, à un stade précoce, des propositions de règlement concernant les limites d'exposition sur le lieu de travail (et d'autres règlements relatifs à l'hygiène et à la sécurité);
- échange d'informations sur les faits nouveaux concernant :
 - les substances cancérogènes sur le lieu de travail
 - les programmes d'essai toxicologiques;
- échanges d'informations sur les aspects des mesures de sécurité et d'hygiène du travail qui sont susceptibles d'avoir des répercussions sur les échanges commerciaux Etats-Unis/C.E.E. et sur les aspects de toutes les futures normes internationales concernant le travail équitable;
- échanges d'informations sur les programmes d'enseignement et d'information relative à l'hygiène et à la sécurité du travail;
- échanges d'informations sur la méthodologie en matière de collecte des données sur les accidents et la morbidité;
- échanges d'informations sur les moyens techniques d'action;
- échanges d'informations sur les statistiques d'accidents et de morbidité ainsi que sur l'étiologie des accidents;
- échanges d'informations sur les programmes de recherche (en particulier les protocoles relatifs aux recherches épidémiologiques) dans les domaines de la sécurité et de l'hygiène du travail;
- organisation en commun de réunions, ateliers de travail, conférences - selon le cas - de caractère technique (ou participation à ces événements).

Il est entendu que la liste de sujets ci-dessus peut éventuellement être modifiée ultérieurement pour tenir compte de nouveaux éléments.

Des membres de l'administration pourraient tenir une ou deux fois l'an une réunion sur des questions concrètes d'intérêt commun en vue de projeter, coordonner et suivre la coopération dans les domaines décrits et dans de nouveaux domaines dont il peut être convenu. Des experts techniques pourraient également se réunir pour débattre en détail des questions précédemment convenues. Les résultats des réunions et des échanges d'informations techniques seront portés à l'attention des fonctionnaires chargés de définir les lignes d'action qui pourraient se rencontrer en réunions ad hoc.



Bruxelles, le 6 juin 1979

Note pour MM. les Membres de la Commission

E/600/79

DELAI:

MERCREDI 13 JUIN 1979 - 12 H.

Observations éventuelles :

à M. WEHRENS (tél. 2362) ou à M. NUTTALL (tél. 5395) tél. secr. 2363, bureau Berl. 11/123

Objet : Coopération entre la Commission et le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis dans le domaine de l'hygiène et de la sécurité du travail

Proposition de MM. VREDELING et HAFERKAMP

DECISION PROPOSÉE :

- 1°) approuver la coopération de l'échange des informations entre la Commission et le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis dans certains domaines de la sécurité et de l'hygiène du travail ;
- 2°) autoriser le Membre de la Commission chargé de l'Emploi et des Affaires sociales, au nom de la Commission, à l'échange de lettres ci-jointes ;
- 3°) envoyer au Conseil, à titre d'information, une copie de cette échange de lettres — après signature.

Commentaire :

Il s'agit de mettre en oeuvre un accord de principe auquel ils sont parvenus lors de leur réunion du 14 décembre 1978 avec les représentants des Gouvernements des Etats-Unis et les représentants de la Commission.

P.j. :

Copie à : M. DEGIJBE, Sir Roy DENMAN,
EHLERMANN

V. J. J. J.
Secrétaire général

PREPARATION DU DOCUMENT

- I. Directions générales responsables : EMPLOI ET AFFAIRES SOCIALES
: RELATIONS EXTERIEURES

Service associé :

- pour avis -

Service juridique : avis favorable

- II. Langue (original : E)

Note for the attention of the Members of the Commission

Re: Cooperation in the field of occupational safety and health between the Commission and the United States Government.
- Exchange of letters.

1. The achievement of the objectives set by the European Communities under their safety and health at work policy can be facilitated through cooperation and exchange of information between the Commission and those non-member countries which are most advanced in the safety and health protection of workers and which have similar problems to those existing in the Member States of the European Community.

The United States occupy a foremost position in this respect:

2. The United States Mission to the European Communities has informed me that the Federal authorities (Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Department of Labor) wish to cooperate and exchange information with the Commission in certain areas of occupational safety and health:
 - airborne toxic substances
 - health and safety problems posed by certain toxic substances, branches of industry and industrial activities
 - carcinogenesis
 - toxicological testing
 - economic aspects
 - accident and morbidity data
 - results of research
 - information and education

I see no objection to establishing this cooperation which will certainly prove very useful for the Commission departments responsible for implementing the Communities' safety and health at work action programme.

3. I therefore propose that the Commission
 - authorize me to proceed, on its behalf, with the exchange of letters appended hereto,
 - request the Secretariat-General to send a copy of these letters after signature to the Council, for information purposes.

H. Vredeling
Vice-President

Dear Mr. Vice-President:

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Sincerely,

Deane R. Hinton
Ambassador to the European Communities

The Honorable Deane R. Hinton
U.S. Mission to the E.C.
40 boulevard du Régent
B - 1000 BRUXELLES

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H. Vredeling,
Vice-President.

Ann.

ANNEX

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