

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM (82) 674 final

Brussels, 23 October 1982

SIXTH PROGRESS REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SAFETY, HYGIENE AND HEALTH PROTECTION AT WORK (PERIOD 1981)

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
0 <u>INTRODUCTION</u>	3
1 <u>MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, WORKING PARTIES AND RESTRICTED GROUP</u>	3
2 <u>STRUCTURE AND OPERATION</u>	3
2.0 STRUCTURE	3
2.1 OPERATION	4
2.1.0 Chairmanship	4
2.1.1 Work plan	4
2.1.2 Action initiated by the Committee	5
2.1.3 Preparatory meetings	5
2.1.4 Attendance at meetings	5
2.1.5 Role of the Restricted Group	6
2.1.6 Working Parties and experts	6
2.1.7 Substitutes in the Working Parties	6
2.1.8 Observers	6
2.1.9 Miscellaneous	7
3 <u>MEETINGS</u>	7
3.0 GENERAL REMARKS	7
3.1 NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND DAYS DEVOTED TO MEETINGS: 1978-1981	9
3.2 TREND OF NUMBER OF MEETINGS, 1976-1981	10
4 <u>ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE</u>	11
4.0 SUMMARY AND GENERAL MATTERS	11
4.1 CHARACTERISTICS.....	11
4.1.0 Object of the activities	11
4.1.1 Initiators	13
4.1.2 Progress	13

	<u>Page</u>
4.2 DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	13
(1) Noise	13
(2) Microwaves	14
(3) Information for workers	14
(4) Removal from the workplace	14
(5) Social fund	15
(6) Dangerous agents and processes	15
(7) Labelling guide	15
(8) Information brochures	16
(9) Carcinogens	16
(10) Safety training	16
(11) Studies, research, information	17
(12) Supervision of studies and research	18
(13) Use of studies and research	19
(14) Report of the Commission to the Council (action programme)	19
(15) DG V work plan	19
(16) Internal organization	20
 5 <u>ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING PARTIES</u>	 20
 6 <u>ACTIVITIES OF THE RESTRICTED GROUP</u>	 22
 7 <u>SECRETARIAT</u>	 23
 8 <u>CONCLUSIONS</u>	 24
 9 <u>OUTLOOK FOR 1982</u>	 24

Annex I: List of members of the Committee, Working Parties and Restricted Group (at 31.12.1981)

Annex II: Second report of the Commission to the Council on the implementation of the action programme.

0. INTRODUCTION

Article 3 of the Council Decision of 27 June 1974 on the setting up of an Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work provides that 'the Committee shall produce an annual report of its activities' and that 'the Commission shall forward the report to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community'.

The sixth progress report, for the year 1981, was compiled by the Secretariat and approved by the Committee on

1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, WORKING PARTIES AND RESTRICTED GROUP

1.0 As in previous years, the membership of the Committee and the working parties remained stable.

1.1 The membership of the Committee, the three Working Parties and the Restricted Group at the end of 1981 is shown in Annex 1.^(x)

1.2 The Greek representatives, having been appointed only on 17 September 1981 (after the plenary meeting of the Committee), were unable to participate in the activities of either the Committee or the Working Parties in 1981.

2. STRUCTURE AND OPERATION

2.0 STRUCTURE

The structure of the Committee and the Working Parties remained unchanged in 1981.

(x) 1981 is the third year of the second term of office, which expires on 22 November 1981.

2.1. OPERATION

2.1.0. Following a change in the Chairmanship, the Committee, with the approval of the new Chairman, set out to improve the efficiency and clarity of its work. Accordingly, it adopted a more 'policy-orientated' approach, both in its opinions on Commission projects and in its own proposals for action.

In the same context, the Committee concentrated more closely on work planning, in particular on selecting priorities periodically (annually) and restricting the time allotted for the treatment of subjects.

This approach should put an end to a situation familiar in the past, whereby the number of requests for action submitted by the Committee so outstripped DG V's limited resources that considerable delays were experienced before certain activities could be completed. A start has been made to rectify this, by selecting a limited number of specific actions which will be completed in a reasonable time.

2.1.1. As a result of this new approach, DG V/E (x) will each year (as from 1982) present a work plan for the implementation of the action programme of the European Communities on safety and health at work. (xx)

DG V's work plan will enable the Committee to plan its own activities better, both in the issuing of opinions on actions proposed by DG V and in developing its own initiatives.

(x) Directorate "Health and Safety"

(xx) Council Resolution of 29 June 1978 - OJ C 165 of 11 July 1978.

- 2.1.2. As can be seen from the Table on page 12, the Committee continued to take initiatives to promote specific actions.

An event which occurred in 1981 illustrates the importance which the Committee attaches to its right to initiate action. At a time when, on the one hand, the Committee was preparing a preliminary opinion on noise, while on the other hand DG V preferred to consult other departments on a draft directive on noise before transmitting this draft to the appropriate Working Party of the Committee, and when in addition a meeting of this Working Party on noise was postponed, the Working Party protested vigorously - in writing, and with the subsequent support of the Committee - against the abovementioned circumstances, interpreting them as an attack on its right to act.

- 2.1.3. The workers' and employers' groups having found preparatory meetings before each plenary meeting to be indispensable for the coordination and formation of opinions, a preparatory meeting was organized for the first time in 1981 for the representatives of the national governments, at their own request. The latter group wanted in particular to compare and clarify the opinions of its members.

- 2.1.4. In general, attendance at the meetings remained at a very satisfactory level. However there was a slight decline in attendance at working party meetings at the end of the year, which was also the end of the second term of office (x). Such a drop occurs at the end of each term of office, since there are always a few members who, knowing that their term of office will not be renewed, withdraw prematurely from activities.

(x) See footnote to page 3.

2.1.5. The tendency in the previous year to place greater reliance on the Restricted Group (within the limits of its responsibilities) became even more pronounced. One particularly important task carried out by the Restricted Group was an interview with the Member of the Commission responsible for the 'safety and health' action programme and for the Committee (see item 6.3.).

2.1.6. The agreement reached two years ago with the Commission to invite a very limited number of experts to certain Working Party meetings where this was absolutely necessary in exceptional cases was taken up for the first time in 1981, when a draft study and a report on the German system of implementing research results were presented to Working Party II.

2.1.7. The concession granted to the members of the Working Parties by the Committee to appoint substitutes for a trial period (1980) was extended until the end of the second term of office, i.e. practically until the start of 1982.

All in all, 26% of members of the three Working Parties appointed such a substitute. The latter attended meetings in exceptional cases only, to ensure continuity in the work. Given the rational use made of this concession, it is probable that the system will be retained in the next term of office.

2.1.8. The following organizations sent observers to meetings in 1981:

- The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
- The Employers' Liaison Committee. (x)
- The European Trade Union Confederation. (x)

(x) to facilitate coordination between members of the Group.

- 2.1.9. A request by the Committee for a representative to be allowed to attend international symposia on problems of interest to the Committee was refused by the Commission for financial reasons.

3. MEETINGS

3.0. GENERAL REMARKS

- 3.0.0. As the table and graph at items 3.1 and 3.2 show, the total number of meetings has become relatively stable (disregarding the peak in 1979, with around 15 meetings and 25 days devoted to the meetings per year.
- 3.0.1. This number also seems to represent the maximum possible given present resources.

It should be added that these have remained practically unchanged for several years.

- 3.0.2. As in 1980, the Committee held only one plenary meeting.

It is fairly widely considered that one plenary meeting per year is sufficient, provided that the Committee uses it as far as possible for decisions and conclusions and that the Working Parties and Restricted Group submit well-prepared draft opinions and proposals.

3.0.3. Since the Committee and the Working Parties clearly cannot step up their activities by holding more meetings, the meetings available must be used to full effect. This ties in with the desire for greater operating efficiency mentioned at items 2.1.0. and 2.1.1.

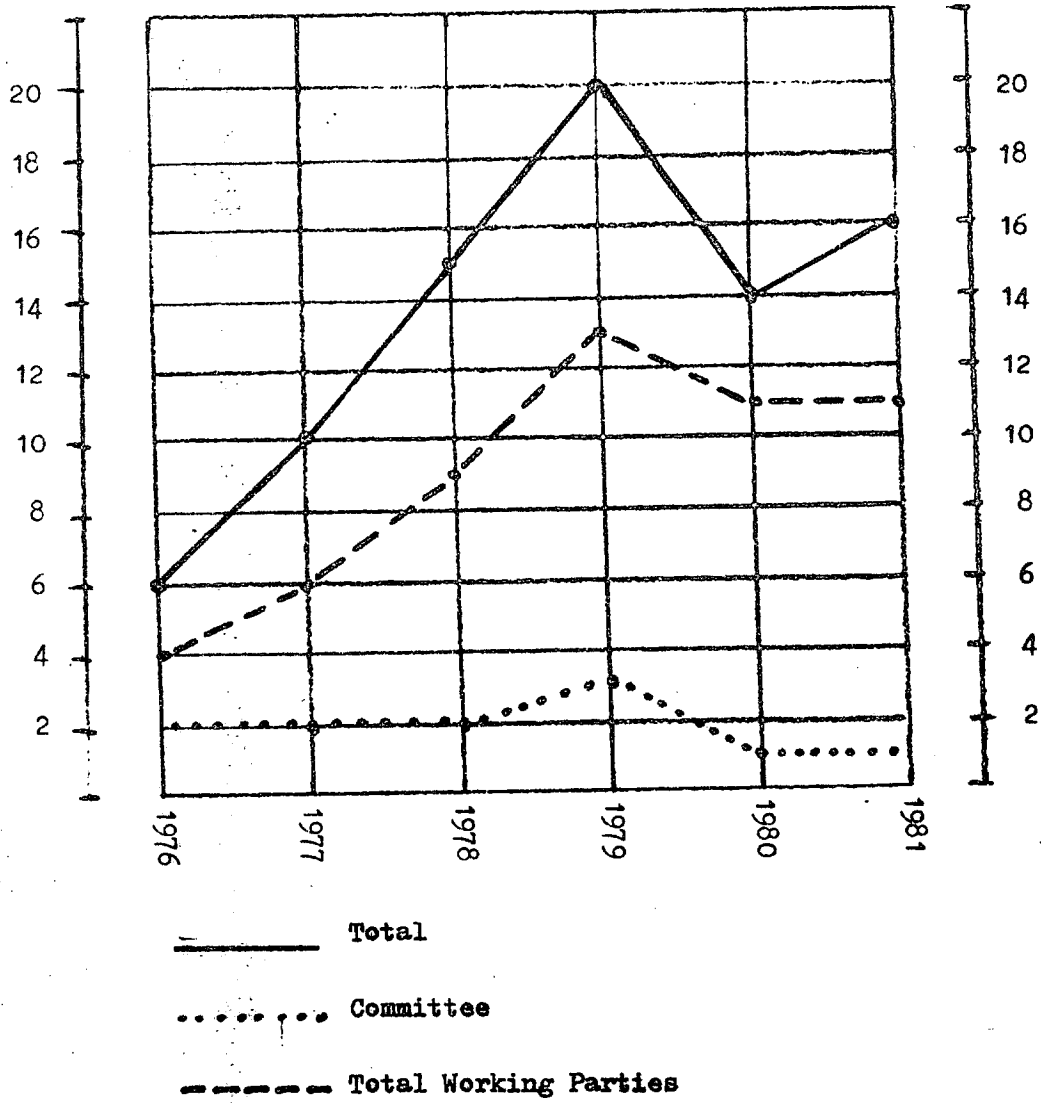
3.1. NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND NUMBER OF DAYS DEVOTED TO MEETINGS - 1978/1981

	NUMBER OF MEETINGS				NUMBER OF DAYS DEVOTED TO MEETINGS			
	1981	1980	1979	1978	1981	1980	1979	1978
Committee (a)	1	1	3	2	1	2	6	6
Working Party I	6	4	9	5	11	8	15	10
Working Party II	2	3	2	3	3	6	4	4
Working Party III	3	4	2	1	6	6	2	1
Restricted Group	4 (b)	2	4	4	4	2	4	4
<u>TOTAL</u>	16	14	20	15	25	24	31	25

(a) Preceded by a preparatory meeting of the workers' and employers' groups (since 1979) and of the representatives of the national governments (1981).

(b) Including a special, informal preparatory meeting between the Chairmen of the Working Parties and the Chairman of the Committee.

3.2. TREND OF THE NUMBER OF
MEETINGS,
1976 TO 1981



4. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

4.0. SUMMARY AND GENERAL REMARKS

The table on the following page summarizes the activities of the Committee under four headings. Certain activities have continued from 1980, and others will be continued into 1982. Although they are not all equally important, the list nevertheless reveals the workload of the Committee.

It should also be remembered that, apart from the organizational matters, all these activities result directly or indirectly from the 1st action programme of the European Communities on safety and health at work (x).

4.1. CHARACTERISTICS

4.1.0. Object of activities

Half of the activities concern directives in one way or another, whether in the form of preparatory work, opinions or follow-up work.

A quarter of the activities consist of 'policy-oriented' requests, inasmuch as the Committee submits to the Commission overall requests (with explanations to facilitate understanding), leaving the legal and technical details to the responsible departments of the Commission, and reserving the right to issue an opinion on the final result. This applies to activities 4, 5, 9 and 10 and is a relatively new approach compared with previous years.

(x) see footnote to page 4.

SUMMARY (and GROUPING)
of activities in
1981

OPINIONS COMPLETED		Initiator (x)	See details under 4.2
1	Draft directive on noise	M	(1)
2	Proposal for a directive on microwaves	COM	(2)
3	Information for workers	CC	(3)
4	Removal from the workplace	CC	(4)
5	Social fund	CC	(5)

OPINIONS IN PREPARATION			
6	Draft directive on dangerous agents and processes	COM	(6)
7	Labelling guide (dir. 79/831/EEC)	COM	(7)
8	Information brochures	M	(8)
9	Overall policy on carcinogens	COM	(9)
10	Safety training at all levels	CC	(10)

STUDIES - RESEARCH - INFORMATION			
11	Studies - research - information	M	(11)
12	System of supervision	CC	(12)
13	Use and generalization of results	CC	(13)

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES (Organization)			
14	Second report of the Commission to the Council on the implementation of the action programme	CC	(14)
15	DG V work plan	M	(15)
16	Internal organization	CC	(16)

(x) COM = Commission (in practice, DG V)
CC = Advisory Committee for Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection
at Work
M = mixed (COM and CC combined)

4.1.1. Initiators of activities (see table on previous page)

Half of the activities were undertaken on the sole initiative of the Committee, a quarter were proposed by the Commission departments and the remaining quarter stem from joint or mixed endeavours (Commission/Committee).

4.1.2. Progress

The progress made in relation to the various activities is described under item 4.2.

4.2. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

(1) Directive on noise

The Committee gave an opinion in two parts on noise: a preliminary opinion on noise in general (before becoming acquainted with the Commission's draft directive) and an opinion on the draft directive itself.

While the opinion shows the Committee to be united on various basic questions, it also reveals widely differing opinions on a number of essential aspects, for example the fact that the directive is concerned with noise perceived (health protection) rather than noise emitted by machinery; admissible levels; measurement within or without ear defenders.

The opinion, which in terms of time alone represents the main activity in 1981, will be incorporated in the proposal for a directive to be transmitted to the Council by the Commission in 1982.

(2) Directive on microwaves

This proposal for a directive (OJ C 249 of 26 September 1980) was not submitted to the Committee before being transmitted to the Council. With the approval of the Committee, Working Party I therefore restricted its activities to an informatory discussion while advising its members to intervene at national level if necessary.

(3) Information for workers

On its own initiative, the Committee gave a unanimous opinion on information for workers on safety and health at work.

The opinion calls for the preparation of a flexible, general directive on this subject and gives numerous suggestions in respect of the contents. (x)

(4) Removal from the workplace

Given that the question of removal of the worker from his workplace for health reasons was treated slightly differently in the framework directive (xx) and the proposals for directives on lead (xxx) and asbestos (xxxx), and with a view to promoting a uniform approach in future directives, the Committee adopted a unanimous position on this problem. The Committee proposed that the related question of financial compensation should not be treated in the directives on health, but should be passed on to the DG V departments with specific responsibility for the matter.

(x) This opinion having been completed, and as already agreed in 1979 (see Fourth Report, item 4.3.0), the Committee asked the Commission to prepare an additional instrument on works safety committees and delegates, on the basis of an existing opinion.

(xx) OJ L 327 of 3 December 1980.

(xxx) OJ C 324 of 28 December 1979.

(xxxx) OJ C 262 of 9 October 1980.

(5) European Social Fund

The Committee unanimously approved a request that in addition to the existing conditions governing financial assistance for national training and rehabilitation programmes, the European Social Fund should also require such programmes to devote adequate attention to safety training.

This request will be examined by DG V during the revision of the rules governing the operation of the European Social Fund, preparations for which were already under way at the end of 1981.

(c) Dangerous agents and processes

At the end of 1981, Working Party I had almost completed the preparation of an opinion on a draft directive on this subject ; this draft directive aims for the prohibition (most often, in practice, the strict limitation) of certain particularly dangerous agents or processes.

This draft opinion will consider the following questions in particular: is a separate directive necessary for such a ban, or would it be preferable to add the provisions on prohibition to the framework directive?; should authorizations or notifications be required for exceptions to the prohibition?; how many substances should be prohibited (with exceptions) in the first instance?

(7) Labelling guide

On the basis of the guide provided for in the 6th amending directive on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances (OJ L 259 of 15 October 1979), Working Party I began work with a view to preparing an opinion on the draft guide proposed by DG XI.

(8) Information brochures

The Committee unanimously agreed that such brochures (provided for in the action programme and intended to accompany the directives implementing the framework directive) should take two forms for each subject:

- a fairly comprehensive and scientific brochure intended for specialists;
- a simple and practical brochure for workers.

In 1981 the Committee issued an opinion on a comprehensive brochure on asbestos. On the basis of the work of an ad hoc group consisting of three of its members, Working Party III prepared a draft brochure on asbestos for workers.

Work on all the brochures in preparation has been suspended pending the Council's approval of the proposals for directives on lead and asbestos.

(9) Carcinogens

On the basis of a document prepared by DG V/E, Working Party I began preparing a draft opinion on an overall policy in relation to carcinogens; this work is now at an advanced stage. The draft opinion will pay particular attention to such important aspects as the evaluation procedures and criteria for these substances, the kind of regulations needed and the form which this policy should take (internal document or official document).

(10) Safety training

The Committee instructed Working Party III to study the problem of safety training at all levels.

By the end of 1981, this Working Party had practically completed a draft resolution requesting the Commission to urge the Member States to take the necessary measures to introduce, improve or

expand safety training in all branches of industry and at all levels of education.

As with other 'policy-oriented' requests, the resolution will be supplemented by explanatory notes defining its scope and will be transmitted to the responsible departments of DG V for implementation.

(11) Studies, research and information

- The Committee approved a programme of studies and research on the construction industry, prepared by Working Party II. The programme includes two preliminary studies, one on falls, the other on building in general, and the following themes:
 - . Reactions of workers in response to working conditions (staff turnover, absenteeism, militant action, agreements);
 - . Career, high-stress jobs and physically arduous work;
 - . Environmental factors (climate, dust noise, etc) and their effects on health;
 - . Effect of working uninterruptedly in all weathers (winter).

At the end of the year in question the two preliminary studies were almost completed and Working Party II had studied the related interim reports.

- The working document 'Exposure limits, measurements, sampling and occasional exposure', will be studied by the Committee at the start of 1982.

- A study and information project was undertaken by Working Party II on the following subjects:
 - . ECSC social and ergonomic research;

- . The German system of analysing fatal accidents;
 - . The analysis of serious accidents in the iron and steel industry;
 - . The German system of translating research results into practice.
- The Committee requested:
- . information on research concerning asbestos substitutes;
 - . a list of all directives containing provisions on noise. This list was distributed in the first instance to Working Party I.

(12) Supervision of studies and research

This problem, which has been raised in the past, was raised again by Working Party II.

The Commission has already granted the Committee a full say in the first phase (subject choice and guidelines) and the final phase (evaluation and exploitation) of a study or research project; the difficulty arises in the intermediate phase, which involves the choice of contractor (expert or institute) and the execution of the study or research.

Certain members of Working Party II, in particular the workers' representatives, also want to have effective control over this intermediate phase, as they find the present arrangement, whereby they are kept informed on the progress of this phase by the Commission or the contractor, inadequate. Such control is foreign to the Commission's traditional practices and is not easily compatible with the nature of the study or research contract. At the end of 1981 this problem had still not been resolved.

(13) Use of study and research results

At the request of the Committee, Working Party II examined the feasibility of applying the results of certain ECSC safety and ergonomics research projects to the whole of industry.

Although it is accepted that certain subjects lend themselves to 'generalization', Working Party II is faced with two problems : the ECSC's system of simple dissemination cannot be applied to the whole of industry, and the legislative approach has not yet been used for such matters.

This problem of generalization will be examined further in 1982.

(14) Report of the Commission to the Council on the implementation of the action programme

The Committee urged the Commission to forward the second of these reports.

The Committee is very interested in this report, as it seems that it is of particular significance for the futur development of the action programme.

The report is included at Annex II for information purposes.

(15) DG V work plan

With the points mentioned at 2.1.0 and 2.1.1 in mind, the Committee asked DG V/E to discuss with the Committee, its annual programme of work for the implementation of the action programme.

The plenary meeting of the Committee brought up a number of subjects for inclusion in this plan, and the Restricted Group devoted a meeting to a preliminary discussion of the subject.

The plan (1982) will be submitted at the start of 1982, first to the Restricted Group and subsequently to the Committee.

(16) Internal organization

- In view of the tendency to hold only one plenary meeting per year the Committee agreed that the Restricted Group should, if necessary, hold more meetings, while demanding as a corollary that the Committee should be kept adequately informed of the work of the Restricted Group.

- To permit the formulation of opinions, the Committee and Working Parties systematically applied the principle whereby members' unsolicited opinions are neither officially distributed, nor translated, nor annexed to minutes, nor taken into consideration unless they are presented orally and discussed during a meeting; they may, however, be lodged with the Secretariat for the record.

- As regards the questions discussed with the Member of the Commission responsible for social affairs, see item 6.3.

5. ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING PARTIES

5.0 The activities of the Working Parties have been discussed under item 4.2.

5.1 The following is a brief outline of the topics dealt with by the Working Parties :

See item 4.2 sub-item (....)

- W.P. I: - Directive on noise (1)
- Directive on microwaves (2)
- Directive on dangerous agents
and processes (6)
- Directive on a labelling guide (7)
- Overall policy on carcinogens (9)

- W.P.II: - Studies and research
- organization (11)
- supervision (12)
- application (13)

- W.P.III: - Information for workers (3)
- Removal from the workplace (4)
- European Social Fund (5)
- Information brochures (8)
- Safety training (10)

5.2.

Working Party I spent much more time on statutory instruments proposed by the Commission; consequently, it did more short-term work and held most meetings.

Working Party II is primarily involved in long-term work (studies and research)

Working Party III was the group most involved with the Committee's own initiatives and 'policy-oriented' requests.

5.3.

The tendency of the Committee to concentrate more on policy than on technical detail was also reflected in the Working Parties, with the result that less time was often spent discussing a subject than in the past.

6. ACTIVITIES OF THE RESTRICTED GROUP

- 6.0. The restricted Group continued to perform its principal function of preparing and organizing certain activities for the Committee or the Working-Parties.
- 6.1. In 1981 the Restricted Group decided for the first time :
- a) not to study a problem (the proposal for a directive on multi-national undertakings) ^(x)
 - b) to study only particular aspects of a problem (the proposal for a directive on microwaves ^(xx) and a public health research programme. ^(xxx)
- 6.2. The Restricted Group followed all the activities described in item 4.2. and the following aspects deserve special mention :
- its approaches to the Commission on the subject of the Committee's right of initiative;
 - its move towards collaborating in the preparation of DG V/E's annual work plan (action programme) :
 - its interview, described in the following paragraph.
- 6.3. At a meeting with the Commissioner Richard who is responsible for social affairs - and hence also for safety and health at work and for the functioning of the Committee - the Restricted Group expressed its disappointment at the resources allocated by the Commission both to DGV/E for the implementation of the action programme and to the work of the Committee.

(x) OJ C 297 of 15 November 1980

(xx) OJ C 249 of 26 September 1980

(xxx) OJ C 291 of 12 November 1981

The Commissioner assured the Restricted Group, and hence the Committee, of his support for their policies, but indicated that he would need to give further consideration to the request for extra means, which for the moment seemed to constitute a major problem.

A further meeting was proposed.

7. SECRETARIAT

7.0. The Secretariat comprises two A grade officials and one C grade official.

7.1. The tendency of the Working Parties in 1980 to ask the Secretariat, working either alone or in cooperation with various members, to prepare draft opinions or draft intermediate opinions (instead of drafting them themselves in meetings) as well as discussion documents, became even more pronounced in 1981 (for example, in connection with activities (3), (4), (5), (9) and (10)).

7.2. As in the past, the Secretariat was not always able to meet official deadlines for convening meetings, nor to disseminate all the translations of the documents involved for every meeting.

8. CONCLUSIONS:

- 8.0. Taken as a whole, 1981 was an average year; it would seem that the level of activities and functioning has reached the maximum achievable.
- 8.1. After three years of implementing the action programme - and with only one year of the four-year period to go - it must be said that the achievements so far are only partial, and at all events below what the Committee would have liked.
- 8.2. The Committee still considers that it has insufficient resources to discharge its tasks as defined by the Council^(x) and for the implementation of the action programme.
- 8.3. The Committee again (xx) urges that the Commission's contribution be strengthened by delegating considerably more work to outside agencies (contracts, consultants), to compensate for the restrictions on the development of the Commission's own departments.
- 8.4. As regards the support given by DG V/E to the Committee (see item 4.2. (13)), it hoped that communication can be still further improved leading to a closer working relationship.

9. OUTLOOK FOR 1982

- 9.0. With the continuation of the new operating methods described earlier and the introduction of a work plan for DG V, it is to be hoped that the activities will progress on a clearer, better organized and more regular basis.

(x) OJ L 185 of 9 July 1974, page 15, Article 2.

(xx) See fifth progress report, point 8.3.

- 9.1. 1982 will see the effective entry of the Greek representatives into the Committee and the Working Parties.
- 9.2. The renewals of the terms of office in the Committee and subsequently in the Working Parties, should be completed by May in the plenary meeting.
- 9.3. In 1982 the important question will be the renewal of the action programme.

MEDLEMMER
 MITGLIEDER
 MEMBERS
 MEMBRES
 MEMBRI
 LEDEN
 ΜΕΛΗ

- A = *Repraesentanter for regeringen*
Regeringsvertreter
Representatives of the Government
Représentants du gouvernement
Rappresentanti del governo
Vertegenwoordigers van de Regering
 μέλος που εκπροσωπεῖ κυβέρνηση
- B = *Repraesentanter for arbejdstagernes faglige organisationer*
Vertreter der Arbeitnehmerorganisationen
Representatives of trade unions
Représentants des organisations syndicales de travailleurs
Rappresentanti delle organizzazioni sindacali dei lavoratori
Vertegenwoordigers van de organisaties van werknemers
 μέλος που εκπροσωπεῖ εργαζόμενους
- C = *Repraesentanter for arbejdsgivernes faglige organisationer*
Vertreter der Arbeitgeberorganisationen
Representatives of employers' organizations
Représentants des organisations syndicales d'employeurs
Rappresentanti delle organizzazioni sindacali dei datori di lavoro
Vertegenwoordigers van de organisaties van werkgevers
 μέλος που εκπροσωπεῖ εργοδότες

Titulaires	Suppléants	Titulaires	Suppléants
Faste medlemmer	Suppleanterne	Faste medlemmer	Suppleanterne
Mitglieder	Stellvertreter	Mitglieder	Stellvertreter
Full members	Alternate members	Full members	Alternate members
Membri titolari	Membri supplenti	Membri titolari	Membri supplenti
Gewone leden	Plaatsvervangende leden	Gewone leden	Plaatsvervangende leden
Πλήρη Μέλη	Αναπληρωματικά Μέλη	Πλήρη Μέλη	Αναπληρωματικά Μέλη

A.				
België/Belgique	M. BENS	M. PAQUE	M. DENONNE	M. GREGOIRE
Danmark	Hr. SAXILD	Hr. LAURBERG	Fr. JENSEN	Hr. BLOU
B.R. Deutschland	Herr KLIESCH	Herr OPFERMANN	Herr WAGNER	Herr WOLFF
France	Mme LAMIRAND	M. BABUSIAUX	M. COURSAULT-DURAND	M. BELBOTE
Ireland	Mr. KENNEDY	Mr. MORRISON	Mr. CONROY	Mr. MURPHY
Italia	Sig. FREDELLA	Sig. FRANCIOSI	Sig. FIORI	Sig. POTI
Luxembourg	M. SCHUSTER	M. MOUSEL	M. NOESEN	M. DEMUTH
Nederland	Dhr. DE ROOS	Dhr. RIKMENSPOEL	Dhr. SICCARA	Dhr. WINK
United Kingdom	Mr. MARTIN	Mrs. BARGER	Mr. NEILD	Mr. BLACKADDER
B.				
België/Belgique	M. THYRE	M. KENNES	M. SILON	M. COLLE
Danmark	Hr. ELIKOFER	Hr. NIELSEN	Fr. CHRISTENSEN	Fr. SVANHOLT
B.R. Deutschland	Herr KONSTANTY	Herr KIENAPPEL	Herr PARTIHEL	Herr GÄRTNER
France	M. ATLAN	M. ROUXEL	M. GUILLON	M. DIAZ
Ireland	Mr. CASSELLS	Mr. O'HALLORAN	Mr. DALY	Mr. KEATING
Italia	Sig. STANZANI	Sig. LELI	Sig. LUCIANI	Signora GLORIA
Luxembourg	M. RECH	M. DUNKEL	M. EHSER	M. KLEIN
Nederland	Dhr. DE BRUIN	Dhr. BURINGH	Dhr. HOGEMES	Dhr. SCHMITZ
United Kingdom	Mr. JACQUES	Mr. HAMILTON	Mr. LLOYD	Mr. PARRY
C.				
België/Belgique	M. VAN GAEVER	M. CLOQUET	M. CORDY	M. LEONARD
Danmark	Hr. HOLM	Hr. RASMUSSEN	Hr. NYGAARD	Hr. LINIUS
B.R. Deutschland	Herr MEYER	Herr WINCKLER	Herr MÜLLER	Herr VON HASSELL
France	M. CAVE	M. FREDERIC-MOREAU	M. TASSIN	M. DELAGE
Ireland	Mr. RICE	Mrs. CARROLL	Mr. CLARKE	Mr. CASSIDY
Italia	Sig. GARLANDA	Sig. PALLADINO	Sig. BUSSETTI	Sig. GHISELLI
Luxembourg	M. RAUCHS	M. BERWEILER	M. OLINGER	M. BEFFORT
Nederland	Dhr. DEN BOER	Mevr. DE QUANT	Mej. DE MEESTER	Dhr. KORTEN
United Kingdom	Mr. AMIS	Ms. MACKIE	Mr. EBERLIE	Ms. SWIADKOWSKA

Arbejdsgruppe I - Arbeitsgruppe I - Working Party I - Groupe de travail I
 Gruppo di lavoro I - Werkgroep I - Ομάδα εργασίας I

Tekniske og forskriftsmæssige aspekter i forbindelse med forebyggelse og beskyttelse
 Technische Aspekte und Vorschriften der Unfallverhütung und des Gesundheitsschutzes
 Technical protective measures and regulations relating to health and safety at work
 Aspects techniques et réglementaires de la prévention et de la protection
 Aspetti tecnici e normativi della prevenzione e della protezione
 Technische en reglementaire aspecten van de ongevalpreventie en gezondheidsbescherming
 Τεχνικά προστατευτικά μέτρα και κανονισμοί αναφορικά με την υγεία και την ασφάλεια
 στον τόπο εργασίας.

	A	B	C
België/Belgique	M. BENS	M. SILON (x)	M. CORDY
Danmark	Hr. SAXILD	Hr. ELIKOFER	Hr. FALK
Bundesrepublik Deutschland	Herr HORNEFFER	Herr PARTIKEL	Herr HARTMANN
France	M. MAIN	M. LEVY	M. CAVE
Ireland	Mr. KENNEDY	Mr. O'SULLIVAN	Mr. CLARKE (xx)
Italia	Sig. FIORE (xx)	Sig. STANZANI	Sig. GARLANDA
Luxembourg	M. SCHUSTER	M. EHSER	M. OLINGER
Nederland	Dhr. RIKMENSPOEL	Dhr. BURINGH	Dhr. DEN BOER
United Kingdom	Mrs. BARGER	Mr. JACQUES	Mr. EBERLIE

(x) Président
 (xx) Vice-président

Arbejdsgruppe II - Arbeitsgruppe II - Working Party II - Groupe de travail II
Gruppo di lavoro II - Werkgroep II 'Ομάδα εργασίας II

Statistik og Forskning
Statistik und Forschung
Statistics and research
Statistiques et recherches
Statistiche e ricerche
Statistiek en onderzoek
Στατιστική και έρευνα

	A	B	C
België/Belgique	M. DE GREVE	M. THYRE	M. CORDY
Dänmark	Fr. JENSEN	Fr. SVANBOLT	Hr. GRUNNET
Bundesrepublik Deutschland	Herr HAGENKÖTTER	Herr KIENAPPEL	Herr BASTONG
France	M. MOYEN	M. GUILLON (xx)	M. FREDERIC-MOREAU
Ireland	-----	Mr. O'HALLORAN	Mrs. CARROLL
Italia	Sig. FREDELLA	Sig. LELI	Sig. RIMA
Luxembourg	M. DEMUTH	M. KLEIN	M. RAUCHS
Nederland	Dhr. LIGTERINGEN	Dhr. SCHMITZ	Dhr. DEN BOER (x)
United Kingdom	Mr. NEILD (xx)	Mr. OWEN	Mr. NASH

(x) Président
(xx) Vice-président

Arbejdsgruppe III - Arbeitsgruppe III - Working Party III - Groupe de travail III
 Gruppo di lavoro III - Werkgroep III - ομάδα εργασιών III

Arbejdsmarkedets parters rolle, problemer i forbindelse med uddannelse og information
 Rolle der Sozialpartner, Ausbildungs- und Informationsprobleme
 Role of both sides of industry, problems of training and information
 Rôle des partenaires sociaux, problèmes de formation et d'information
 Ruolo delle parti sociali, problemi di formazione e d'informazione
 Rol van de sociale partners, opleiding en voorlichting
 Ρόλος των κοινωνικών εταίρων, προβλήματα εκπαίδευσης και ενημερώσεως

	A	B	C
België/Belgique	M. NUYTS	M. KENNES	M. CORDY
Danmark	Hr. OVERGÅRD-HANSEN	Hr. ELIKOFER	Hr. VON GRUMBKOW
Bundesrepublik Deutschland	Herr ANZINGER	Herr KONSTANTY	Herr VON HASSELL
France	M. JACOB	M. CHAVROT	M. TASSIN (xx)
Ireland	Mr. CONROY	Mr. CASSELLS	Mr. RICE
Italia	Sig. FIORE	Sig. LUCIANI	Sig. NASONI
Luxembourg	M. SCHUSTER (xx)	M. RECH	M. MARGUE
Nederland	Dhr. VOS	Dhr. DE BRUIN (x)	Mej. DE MEESTER
United Kingdom	Mr. WATSON	Mr. HAMILTON	Mr. NASH

(x) Président
 (xx) Vice-président

Restricted Group - Organe restreint - Organo ristretto - Klein Comité

M. SILON

Sig. FIORE

M. CLARKE

Dhr. DEN BOER

M. GUILLOIN

Mr. NEILD

Dhr. DE BRUIN

M. TASSIN

M. SCHUSTER

32

February 1982

Second Report from the Commission to the Council on the
Action Programme of the European Communities on
Safety and Health at Work

(Financial years 1980 - 1981)

CONTENTS

Introduction

I. The Action Programme

- A. Industrial accident and occupational disease aetiology Research.
- B. Protection against dangerous substances.
- C. Prevention of the dangers and harmful effects of machines.
- D. Monitoring and inspection. Improvement of human attitudes.

II. Implementation of the action programme.

III. Future of the action programme.

Introduction

This is the second report on the implementation of the Action Programme of the European Communities on Safety and Health at Work. (Council Resolution of 29 June 1978, O.J. C 165 of 11 July 1978).

The first report (*) gave a broad outline of the objectives of and action to be taken in connection with the programme and described the first steps taken in the field of safety and health at work.

It is not necessary to repeat these general points and we shall restrict ourselves here to what has been achieved in the time between the two reports despite the lack of money which did, in many cases, slow down the progress of the programme.

The action programme started immediately after it had been accepted by the Council with the implementation of measures to protect people against dangerous substances (Actions 3-7). It was only later, particularly during the financial year under review, that it was possible to tackle further work more specifically related to safety at work.

I. The Action Programme

This report follows the order of the actions listed in the programme.

A. Industrial accident and occupational disease aetiology research

Actions 1 and 2

In view of the shortage of staff at the Statistical Office of the European Communities, it has not yet really been possible to begin compiling Community statistics on industrial accidents for all branches of activity.

However, considerable progress has been recorded in three branches - building, agriculture and sea fishing.

In the case of the building industry, analysis of the causes of accidents has shown that falls are largely responsible and that working conditions are of great importance.

The results of surveys in the agricultural sector are still too fragmentary to be used as a basis for preventive measures. It nevertheless appears that there are a considerable number of falls, particularly from agricultural machinery. The basis for cooperation established with the Working Party on Health and Safety of the Joint Committee on the Social Problems of Agricultural Workers should mean that considerable progress will be made from now on.

*) Com(80) 32 final

The Joint Committee responsible for the social problems associated with sea fishing has for many years been systematically recording the circumstances under which accidents occur. Analysis of the information forms has just started in close collaboration with this committee.

The survey of the causes of serious accidents in the iron and steel industry launched in two industrial areas in the Community has continued and, in the case of one area, has been completed. The results show clearly how useful these surveys are for the organization of preventive measures. Contact has been made with institutes specializing in occupational safety which already carry out surveys of this kind at national level, with a view to making use of existing data on a Community basis; these will be a better guide for the organization of measures to prevent accidents than traditional general statistics. The advantage of these surveys is that they show the industrial sectors at risk objectively and quantitatively.

Research. Two preparatory studies on the building industry were carried out in 1981.

The first covered falls in this industry. The second was more general, the aim being to assess working conditions.

The Commission has looked into these studies and the preparations of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work and is drawing up a research programme on the building industry.

In the longer term, but with the same objectives in mind, preparations are being made for a more general research programme on all industrial branches. A study on this, entitled 'Scientific and technical basis for a Community research programme on safety and health at work', is about to be completed.

B. Protection against dangerous substances

In connection with action in this field, the Council has adopted the following two directives.

1. Council Directive of 27 November 1980 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work (*).

This Directive covers all chemical, physical and biological agents used in industry and includes both short- and long-term measures.

The short-term measures are information for workers and appropriate monitoring of their health.

*) Official Journal L 327 of 3 December 1980

In the long term, the Member States must take technical measures to ensure that the exposure of workers to agents is avoided or kept at as low a level as is reasonably practicable; provision is made for 14 measures, plus five additional measures for the 11 agents in the Annex.

The Directive also states that individual proposals for directives will be submitted by the Commission to the Council for these 11 agents.

With this in view, two proposals for directives on lead (*) and asbestos (**) were submitted in 1979 and 1980 (Action 5); priority is now being given to the remaining agents: acrylonitrile, arsenic, benzene, cadmium, mercury, nickel, chloroform, paradichlorobenzene and carbon tetrachloride.

On 28 July 1982, having considered the opinions of the European Parliament (***) and the Economic and Social Committee (****), the Council adopted the Directive on the protection of workers from harmful exposure to metallic lead and its ionic compounds at work (first individual directive under the terms of Article 8 of Directive 80/1107/EEC) (*****).

2. Council Directive on the major-accident hazards of certain industrial activities (*****)

This Council Directive of 24 June 1982 relates both to the action programme on the environment and to the action programme on safety and health at work.

The main aim of the Directive is to prevent the major accidents which could be caused by certain industrial activities and to limit their effects on the environment.

The Directive establishes a system for the control of industrial activities involving dangerous substances in quantities exceeding certain limits by requiring the manufacturer to submit to the competent authorities a notification, the form and content of which are fixed.

As regards the site and the persons working on the site, the Directive obliges manufacturers to provide such persons with information, training and equipment in order to ensure their safety. In addition, for more dangerous industrial activities the manufacturer must prepare emergency plans, including the provision of safety equipment, alarm systems and resources available for use inside the establishment.

Member States are required to inform the Commission of major accidents and of the name of the organization which might have relevant information on such accidents and which is able to advise the competent authorities of the other Member States which have to intervene in the event of such an accident. The Commission is to set up a register containing a summary

*) O.J. C 324 of 28.12.1979

**) O.J. C 262 of 9.10.1980

***) O.J. C 101 of 4.5.1981, p.14

****) O.J. C 300 of 18.11.1980, p.22

*****) O.J. L ...

*****) O.J. L ...

.../...

of the major accidents which have occurred within the territory of the Member States, including an analysis of the causes of such accidents, experience gained and measures taken, to enable the Member States to use this information for prevention purposes.

Action 4

A working document with information which could be used for a Community policy on carcinogenic substances at the workplace has been drawn up and is now being examined by the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

Dangers of microwave radiation

In connection with the protection of workers against physical agents, the Commission submitted to the Council on 26 June 1980 a Proposal for a Directive (*) laying down basic standards for the health protection of workers and the general public against the dangers of microwave radiation.

C. Prevention of the dangers and harmful effects of machines

Action 8 - Noise and vibrations

Several studies have been made of the correlation between the risk of hearing damage and exposure to noise, the problems of industrial audiometry and the hearing risks due to fluctuating and impulse noise. Another is in progress on the problem of the labelling of noisy equipment used at work.

The Commission departments are drawing up a Proposal for a directive on the protection of workers against the risks of exposure to noise. The necessary consultations are in progress.

A study on the health effects of vibrations at work is nearing completion.

Action 9

Two studies (**) have been undertaken to compare various aspects of the application of the principles of accident prevention in the design, construction and use of industrial equipment. The results will be available during 1982 and will complement those quoted under Action 1. One proposal is to establish specifications for certain types of agricultural equipment or plant.

A two-part programme on the epidemiology of respiratory diseases in agriculture is reaching completion. A study conducted in eight Community countries on the risks to which agricultural workers are exposed has shown that the data available and the way in which they are interpreted vary considerably and this may give a false impression of the risk factors where health is concerned.

*) Official Journal C 249 of 26 September 1980.

**) -Comparative study of national procedures for the approval of machines for safety purposes
-Comparative study of the regulations in the Community countries on occupational safety and the inclusion of safety considerations in the various stages of design, production and use.

A field study to assess the health of groups of rural workers has been conducted in two countries.

It is hoped that these studies will make a useful contribution to the work in progress to improve statistical methodology (cf. Action 1).

=====

Ergonomics

For many years the Commission has been doing considerable work in the field of ergonomics with its sponsorship of ECSC research projects.

Although this work covers the coal and steel industries, there are aspects of it which could be applied more generally.

Examples are items such as the following :

- the adaptation of data processing to new technology; the adaptation of microprocessors to office work;
- the handling of heavy loads. This could be adapted specifically to building and agriculture;
- cooling of a hot environment. This information is applicable to all hot workplaces, e.g. in the glass-making industry;
- the use of individual protective devices;
- research into the physiological stress associated with the work.

It should be noted that in 1981 the Commission conducted a series of studies in connection with ergonomics:

- the possible contribution of ergonomics to the design of monitoring and warning systems in processing industries such as the petrochemical industry;
- the problems associated with the display of information on a cathode-ray screen;
- ways in which ergonomics can help to ensure safe and healthy environments and working conditions where new technology has been applied to existing installations;
- assessment of the ergonomic stress associated with unavoidable additional tasks resulting from the introduction of remote control and robots into industrial technology;
- functional assessment of the disabled in relation to the tasks created by new auxiliary microelectronic systems.

D. Monitoring and inspection - improvement of human attitudes

Action 12 - Special monitoring

Because of the extended use of subcontracting in industry for maintenance and repairs for example, and in building and construction, it has become urgent and necessary to compare national provisions for the monitoring of the workers involved.

An initial meeting on the subject was held in 1981 and a Community study (*) on subcontracting which had been completed was used.

Action 13 - Organization of inspection

Following a meeting of national experts it was decided that in 1982 a colloquium should be organized on the part to be played by the works inspector in the improvement of safety. Preparatory work for this colloquium began in 1981. The Commission hopes to learn something from experience at national level and regards works inspection as being of prime importance if a high level of safety is to be achieved.

During a course for works inspectors in Denmark (Jørlunde) in 1981, the need for more coordination between Member States on dangerous substances was discussed.

It is up to the Commission to take action to avoid the adoption of incompatible national systems.

Action 14 - Training and information on safety

A seminar was held in April 1980 for experts from the Community countries to compare university health and safety teaching programmes and methods.

The aim of this colloquium was also to exchange information on the objectives and contents of courses on safety training. It brought to light the high degree of similarity of the subjects taught and the impact of national legislation on what was taught.

Two aspects emerged: the need to train both the specialists required by firms and the teachers and members of the inspectorates.

Work in this important sector is continuing and a study of the technical and practical aspects of safety training in universities etc., has been completed.

The data from this study will serve as a basis for the colloquium in 1982 the aim being to establish the action the Commission should take in this field. The main purpose is to define guidelines for safety training at university level.

*) collaboration between a main undertaking (contractor) and secondary firms (sub-contractors)

II. Implementation of the Action Programme

As indicated in the first report there is constant cooperation in the implementation of the action programme between the Commission and the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work and its working parties. The three working parties have been maintained.

III. The future of the Action Programme

The council Resolution of 29 June 1978 on the Action Programme of the European Communities on Safety and Health at Work expresses "the political will to take, in the keeping with the urgency of the matter and bearing in mind what is feasible at national and Community level, the measures required so that between now and the end of 1982 the following actions in particular can be undertaken".

After the first report on the Action Programme, and particularly during 1981, the Commission embarked upon a number of actions which had previously not been possible.

Specific examples are activities under the heading, Industrial accident and occupational disease aetiology - Research (Actions 1 and 2), Prevention of the dangers and harmful effects of machines (Actions 8 and 9) and Monitoring and inspection - improvement of human attitudes (Actions 12, 13 and 14).

The resources have not however, always been available to implement and complete all the work and some to these activities have only just started.

The Commission intends to continue these and adapt them to industrial requirements on the basis of a second action programme for 1983 following on from the first.