

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Brussels, 14 November 1984

EIGHTH PROGRESS REPORT OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON SAFETY, HYGIENE AND HEALTH
PROTECTION AT WORK (PERIOD 1983)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Council Decision 74/325/EEG of 27 June 1974 (O.J. No. L 185 of 9 July 1974) on the setting up of an Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, provides in article 3 that:

- "1) The Committee shall produce an annual report on its activities.
- 2) The Commission shall forward that report to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community."

This Advisory Committee approved the enclosed Eighth Progress Report (Doc. No. V/LUX/7276/84) in the meeting of 29 and 30 May 1984.

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Annex III : DG V/E plan of work for 1984 (doc. 7039/84)

Annex IV : Other subjects related to Committee activities

Corrigendum

In the 7th progress report, Page 9, Point 6, 2nd line, 'DG III' should be replaced by 'DG XI'.

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0. INTRODUCTION

Article 4 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 this report to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community".

The Eighth Progress Report for the year 1983 was approved by the Committee on 30 May 1984.

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

The lists of members of the Committee, the three working parties and the restricted Group at the end of 1983 are given in Annex I.

Since 1983 was the second year of the current term few changes have taken place. At the plenary meeting in November the resignation of Mr. SILON, Chairman of working party I and Mr. VASILOPOULOS, Vice-Chairman of working party I were announced. Tributes to their service were expressed by members and the Chairman expressed appreciation for their work on behalf of the Commission.

The mandate of the Committee extends to 31 March 1985.

2. STRUCTURE AND OPERATION

2.0 The structure and mode of operation of the Committee, the three permanent working parties and the Restricted Group remained unchanged in 1983.

2.1 There were no changes in secretarial staff.

3. MEETINGS

There was a total of 14 meetings in 1983, a number comparable to previous years; however, the meetings were spread over fewer days than in any year since the creation of the Committee. Details of the trend in recent years are given in the table.

NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND NUMBER OF DAYS DEVOTED TO MEETINGS

1978 / 1983

	Number of meetings							Number of days						
	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978		
Committee (a)	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	2	6	6		
Working Party I	7 (b)	6 (b)	6	4	9	5	11	11	11	8	15	10		
Working Party II	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	6	3	6	4	4		
Working Party III	1	2	3	4	2	1	1	2	6	6	2	1		
Restricted Group	3	2	4	2	4	4	3	2	4	2	4	4		
TOTAL	14	14	16	14	20	15	20	23	25	24	31	25		

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

(b) Including two preparatory meetings devoted to drafting work

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

4.0 General review

4.0.0 Apart from organizational matters, all activities arise directly or indirectly from the First Action Programme of the European Communities on Safety and Health at Work*).

4.0.1 Activities in 1983 were concentrated on the following:

- a) preparation of the opinion on the "Harmonization of exposure limit values, biological and workplace environment monitoring and health surveillance" (cf. further under activities (5) and (7) on the next page;
- b) the opinion on the first plan of work for DG V/E following from the Second Action Programme;
- c) discussions on reforming the Committee.

The fact that the Second Action Programme**) submitted by the Commission to the Council was not finally approved during the year did not materially effect the Committee's activities. The intention of the Council to request an annual plan of work related to the new programme was seen as an important development and one that should serve as a stimulus in future years.

4.0.2 No new proposals were submitted to the Committee for an opinion. The Committee noted that the Second Individual Directive within the meaning of Article 8 of Directive 80/1107/EEC, concerning protection to Asbestos was adopted by Council in September and that the proposal for a Third Individual Directive concerning protection against Noise was under discussion in the Economic and Social Committee, the European Parliament and the Council.

*) O.J. Nr. C 165 of 11 July 1978

**) O.J. Nr. C 308 of 25 November 1982

ACTIVITIES IN 1983

Opinions completed

- (1) 1984 plan of work for DG V/E following the proposal for a Second Action Programme;
- (2) research programme on safety and health in the construction industry;
- (3) small information brochure for workers on lead;
- (4) statistics on fatal and serious accidents at work;
- (5) harmonisation of exposure limits values, biological and workplace environment monitoring and health surveillance. Part I.

Opinions being prepared

- (6) research programmes on safety in general;
- (7) harmonisation of exposure limit values, biological and workplace environment monitoring and health surveillance. Part 2;
- (8) small information brochure for workers on asbestos*);

Internal organization

- (9) meeting with Commissioner Richard;
- (10) alternate members in the working parties;
- (11) submission of documents by members;
- (12) review of working parties.

*) The draft opinion on the Labelling of Carcinogenic substances had been held in abeyance.

4.1 Description of the activities

- (1) Proposal for a Second Action Programme and first plan of work for DG V/E

The Committee regretted that the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal for a Second Programme of Action on Safety and Health at Work was not adopted during the year. The Committee welcomed and gave a positive opinion on the draft first annual plan of work for DG V/E for 1984 requested by the Council in the context of the Second Action Programme. A number of proposals were made for items to be added in 1984 or 1985. The Committee considered that the plan should provide the basis on which a working schedule could be prepared for the Committee and its working parties.

- (2) Research programme on safety and health in the construction industry (Doc. Nr. 3831/3/83 - Annex to Doc. Nr. 2648/83)

The Committee welcomed the approval in principal accorded to this proposal by DG XII.

- (3) Small information brochure for workers on lead

The Committee approved the small information brochure on lead for workers, prepared by Working Party III. It agreed that after further design work this should be made available in all languages of the Community. The intention was that it should serve as a model for publication in Member States. This brochure on lead should be regarded as the first of a series dealing with chemical, physical and biological agents at work and particularly those agents addressed in Council Directives.

- (4) Statistics on fatal and serious working accidents

The Committee supported the endeavours of the SOEC to adopt a more pragmatic, step-by-step approach in collecting statistics on major accidents at work for all Community industries.

Attention would be focussed initially on fatal accidents and then on other serious accidents to determine the number of accidents in both categories and the main causes.

(5) Harmonisation of exposure limits

The Committee received Part I of the opinion prepared by Working Party I on the harmonisation of exposure limit values, biological and workplace environment monitoring and health surveillance and requested that the Commission should take this into consideration when preparing the communication to the Council in 1984.

(6) Research programme on safety

Working Party II developed ideas for a basic framework and criteria for selecting topics and subjects in connection with a general research programme on safety in the workplace.

(7) Harmonisation of exposure limit values

Completion of Part 2 of this document was foreseen in early 1984.

(8) Small information brochure for workers on asbestos

A draft of this brochure which will be the second in the series referred to earlier was foreseen for 1984.

(9) Meeting with Commissioner Richard

The Committee noted that the restricted group had met with Commissioner Richard in October to discuss Commission policy in the field, and the role and functioning of the Committee.

The restricted group had sought to emphasise its concern about the lack of resources devoted to all aspects of the work on health and safety in the workplace.

In summary the discussion revealed

- that the Commission maintained safety and health at the workplace as a priority within social policy
- that the Committee had an important role in assisting the Commission to develop actions in the field
- that the Commission would welcome any reforms of the Committee which might lead to better working
- resource constraints were unchanged.

(10) Substitute members in the working parties

The Committee agreed to the proposal of the restricted group to retain the existing system of substitute members for the working parties.

(11) Submission of documents by members

The Committee agreed to implement the guidelines prepared by the restricted group on the submission of documents to working parties and plenary meetings. These comprise certain criteria with which documents (received from members or experts) must comply to be considered for translation, distribution or inclusion with the Committee's or a working party's report.

(12) Review of working parties

In response to criticism of the Committee and working parties and proposals for change in the method of working, the Committee and restricted group discussed at length their role and functioning. As noted earlier this matter was discussed with M. Richard at his meeting with the restricted group.

These discussions confirmed the important role of the Committee and the value of its past work. Two conclusions were reached namely, that the Committee must continue to be tripartite, and that in the light of the imbalance of responsibilities and work between the working parties, as evidenced by the pattern of meetings in 1983, this structure should be revised. Various options for this revision were discussed and the Chairman undertook to present proposals to the next plenary meeting based upon the views expressed by the different interest groups and individual members. Any agreed changes could then be implemented before the mandate of the Committee runs out in early 1985.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK

1983 could prove in retrospect to have been an important year. Although the proposal for a Second Programme of Action was not finally adopted, the request of Council for the preparation of an annual plan of work has already been met. Both the consultation in preparation and involvement in execution of specific items should enhance the role of the Committee.

The Committee regretted the delays and lack of follow-up to initiatives taken in earlier years, and also the fact that it had again not proved possible for a Member of the Commission to take the Chair at meetings.

The Committee is now aware of the need to change patterns of working. As 1984 will mark the tenth anniversary of the Council Decision, the reassessment that has taken place during the year is both opportune and encouraging.

Progress with directives and with more general matters of information exchange have continued. Future emphasis on developing actions relating to safety is necessary to produce a better balance in the work of the Committee and Commission services.

MEDLEMNER
MITGLIEDER
MEMBERS
MEMBRES
MEMBRI
LEDEN
MEAH

- A = *Repraesentanter for regeringen*
Regierungsvertreter
Representatives of the Government
Représentants du gouvernement
Rappresentanti del governo
Vertegenwoordigers van de Regering
μέλος πού 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 πού 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 πού εκπροσωπεῖ εργοδότες

	Titulaires Faste medlemmer Mitglieder Full members Membri-titolari Gewone leden Πλήρη Μέλη	Suppléants Suppleanterne Stellvertreter Alternate members Membri supplenti Plaatsvervangende leden Αναπληρωματικά Μέλη	Titulaires Faste medlemmer Mitglieder Full members Membri titolari Gewone leden Πλήρη Μέλη	Suppléants Suppleanterne Stellvertreter Alternate members Membri supplenti Plaatsvervangende leden Αναπληρωματικά Μέλη
	A.			
Belgie/Belgique Danmark	M. BENS Hr. BURG	Mme MARQUEGNIES Hr. SAXILD	M. DENONNE Hr. ANDERSEN	M. CAJOT * Hr. OVERGAARD- HANSEN
B.R. Deutschland France Hellas Ireland Italia Luxembourg Luxembourg Nederland United Kingdom	Herr NOTLICHS M. JEZEQUEL * k. VASILOPOULOS Ms. O'CALLAGHAN Sig. FREDELLA M. SCHUSTER Dhr. DE ROOS Mr. MARTIN	Herr OFFERMANN Mlle BUNE ka. KAFETZOPOULOU Mr. MORRISON Dott. ^{ssa} ROCCA- ERCOLI M. MOUSEL Dhr. RIKMENSPOEL Mrs. CATTO	Herr WAGNER M. LAROQUE * ka. GEORGOPOULOU Mr. CONROY Sig. FIORE M. RUME Dhr. SICCAMA Mr. SORRIE	Herr WOLFF M. BABUSIAUX k. ZORBAS Mr. MURPHY Sig. GUERRIERI M. DEMUTH Dhr. VOS Mr. CRITCHLOW
	B.			
Belgie/Belgique Danmark B.R. Deutschland France Hellas Ireland Italia Luxembourg Nederland United Kingdom	M. THYRE Hr. ELIKOFER Herr KONSTANTY M. BAUDE k. TASOULIS Mr. BRANIGAN Sig. LELI M. JUNCK Dhr. BUNT Mr. LLOYD	M. THISSEN Hr. NIELSEN Herr KIENAPPEL M. MALNOE k. YERANIOS Mr. O'HALLORAN Sig. ^{ra} TOMASSINI M. DUNKEL Dhr. BURINGH Mr. BUCKTON	M. SILON Fr. CHRISTENSEN Herr PARTIKEL M. GUEVEL ka. VASILAKOU Mr. O'SULLIVAN Sig. STANZANI M. RIES Dhr. VAN DE KAMP Mr. JACQUES	M. COLLE Fr. SVANHOLT Herr VETTER M. DIAZ Ka. KARAMANOU Mr. KEATING Sig. LUCIANI M. NURENBERG Dhr. SCHMITZ M. HAMILTON
	C.			
Belgie/Belgique Danmark B.R. Deutschland France Hellas Ireland Italia Luxembourg Nederland United Kingdom	M. CORDY Hr. FALK Herr VON HASSELL M. CAVE k. TSAMOUSOPOULOS Mr. CLARKE Sig. GARLANDA M. RAUCHS Dhr. DEN BOER Ms. MACKIE	M. BORMANS Hr. LINIUS Herr MULLER M. FREDERIC- MOREAU ka. VAFIADOU Mr. CASSIDY Sig. GIUSTI M. BERWEILER Mevr. DE QUANT Mr. AMIS	M. LEONARD Hr. JEPSEN * Herr SCHLICHT M. TASSIN k. FALALIS Mr. RICE Sig. BUSSETTI M. OLINGER Mej. DE MEESTER Mr. EBERLIE	M. HARDY Fr. KROGH ANDERS Herr HARTMANN M. FRUCHET k. KALDIS Mrs. CARROLL Sig. SCARFINI M. BEFFORT Dhr. KORTEN Ms. SWIADKOWSKA

x procédure en cours

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

Tekniske og forskriftsmaessige 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 ongevallenpreventie 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	Mlle BERTHEZENE	M. LEVY	M. FREDERIC-MOREAU
Hellas	k. VASILOPOULOS	-----	k. TSAMOUSOPOULOS
Ireland	Mr. NEVILLE	Mr. O'SULLIVAN	Mr. CLARKE
Italia	Sig. FIORE	Sig.ra TOMASSINI	Sig. GARLANDA
Luxembourg	M. SCHUSTER	M. RIES	M. OLINGER
Nederland	Dhr. RIKMENSPOEL	Dhr. BURINGH	Dhr. DEN BOER
United Kingdom	Mr. MASSON	Mr. JACQUES	Mr. EBERLIE (xx)

(x) Président

(xx) Vice-président

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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. THISSEN	M. CORDY
Danmark	Hr. ANDERSEN	Fr. SVANHOLT	Hr. GRUNNET
Bundesrepublik Deutschland	Herr KOCH	Herr KIENAPPEL	Herr BASTONG
France	M. MOYEN	M. LASSUS	M. FREDERIC-MOREAU
Hellas	ka. GEORGOPOULOU	-----	k. KALDIS
Ireland	Mr. MURPHY	Mr. O'HALLORAN	Mrs. CARROLL
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Nederland	Dhr. LIGTERINGEN	Dhr. SCHMITZ	Dhr. DEN BOER (x)
United Kingdom	Mr. SORRIE (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 εργασίας III

Arbejdsmarkedets parters rolle, problemer i forbindelse med uddannelse of 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. LITSKE	Hr. ELIKOFER	Hr. FALK
Bundesrepublik Deutschland	Herr ANZINGER	Herr KONSTANTY	Herr WILKE
France	M. JACOB	M. GUEVEL	M. TASSIN (xx)
Hellas	ka. GEORGOPOULOU	-----	k. BAZAS
Ireland	Mr. CONROY	Mr. BRANIGAN	Mr. RICE
Italia	Sig. FIORE (x)	Sig. LELI	Sig. BUSSETTI
Luxembourg	M. SCHUSTER	M. JUNCK	M. MARGUE
Nederland	Dhr. VOS	Dhr. BUNT	Mej. DE MEESTER
United Kingdom	Mr. MASSON	Mr. HAMILTON (xx)	Mr. NASH

(x) Président

(xx) Vice-président

Restricted Group - Organe restraint - Organo ristretto - Klein Comité

ΠΕΡΙΟΡΙΣΜΕΝΟΥ ΟΡΓΑΝΟΥ

M. SILON

Mr. EBERLIE

Dhr. DEN BOER

Mr. SORRIE

Sig. STANZANI

Sig. FIORE

Mr. HAMILTON

M. TASSIN

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

of 27 February 1984

on a second programme of action of the European Communities on safety and health at work

(84/C 67/02)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaties establishing the European Communities,

Having regard to the draft resolution submitted by the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽³⁾,

Whereas the Council resolution of 21 January 1974 concerning a social action programme ⁽⁴⁾ provides for the establishment of an action programme on safety and health at work;

Whereas, under Article 2 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, the Community shall have in particular as its task, by establishing a common market and progressively approximating the economic policies of Member States, that of promoting throughout the Community a harmonious developing of economic activities, a continuous and balanced expansion and an accelerated raising of the standard of living;

Whereas, at the Conference held in Paris in October 1972, the Heads of State or of Government affirmed that the first aim of economic expansion, which is not an end in itself, should be to enable disparities in living conditions to be reduced and that it should result in an improvement in the quality of life as well as in standards of living;

Whereas, moreover, under Article 117 of the said Treaty the Member States agreed upon the need to promote improved working conditions and an improved standard of living for workers, so as to make possible their harmonization while the improvement was being maintained;

Whereas prevention of accidents at work and occupational diseases and also occupational hygiene fall within the fields and objectives referred to in Article 118 of the said Treaty; whereas in this context collaboration should be strengthened between the Member States and the Commission and between the Member States themselves;

Whereas suitable health protection for the public and effective prevention of accidents at work and occupational diseases would be in conformity with these general objectives;

Whereas, in spite of sustained efforts, the continuing high level of accidents at work and of occupational diseases remains a serious problem;

Whereas efforts made in the field of accident prevention and health protection at the work place have beneficial effects which are reflected in the economic sphere and in industrial relations;

Whereas a considerable effort is needed at Community level to search for and implement suitable means for maintaining or creating a working environment tailored to the needs of man and his legitimate aspirations;

Whereas both the effectiveness of the measures and the cost of implementing them should be taken into account in the choice of action to be undertaken at Community level and of the measures to be taken to implement it;

Whereas the improvement of working conditions and the working environment must be envisaged in overall terms and must concern all sectors of the economy;

Whereas it is also essential to encourage the increasing participation of management and labour, at all levels and particularly at the level of the undertaking, in decisions and initiatives in the field of safety, hygiene and health protection at work;

Whereas the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, set up by Decision 74/325/EEC ⁽⁵⁾, must be closely associated with this work;

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 308, 25. 11. 1982, p. 11.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 57, 29. 2. 1984.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 176, 4. 8. 1983, p. 16.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No C 13, 12. 2. 1974, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 185, 9. 7. 1974, p. 15.

Whereas the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training may have a role to play in the implementation of certain aspects of the programme;

Whereas, in implementing the actions, account must be taken of work undertaken in other fields, especially in the context of the Council resolution of 17 December 1973 on industrial policy ⁽¹⁾ and of the Declaration of 22 November 1973 ⁽²⁾ and resolutions of 17 May 1977 ⁽³⁾ and of 7 February 1983 ⁽⁴⁾ of the Council of the European Communities and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, concerning a European Community action programme on the environment, in order to ensure the closest possible coordination of actions and proposals;

Whereas, in order to carry out the actions successfully, it is important to ensure that concepts, terminology and methods of identification, measurement and assessment relating to safety and health risks are harmonized; whereas such a task is of major importance in the context of these actions;

Notes that this second action programme takes into account the first action programme annexed to the Council resolution of 29 June 1978 on an action programme of the European Communities on safety and health at work ⁽⁵⁾;

Expresses the political will to take, in 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 1988 the following priority actions in particular can be undertaken:

I. PROTECTION AGAINST DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

1. Continue with the establishment of Community provisions based on Council Directive 80/1107/EEC of 27 November 1980 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work ⁽⁶⁾.
2. Establish common methodologies for the assessment of the health risks of physical, chemical and biological agents present at the work place.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 117, 31. 12. 1973, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 112, 20. 12. 1973, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 139, 13. 6. 1977, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No C 46, 17. 2. 1983, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No C 165, 11. 7. 1978, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 327, 3. 12. 1980, p. 8.

3. Develop a standard approach for the establishment of exposure limits for toxic substances by applying the methodologies referred to in point 2. Make recommendations for the harmonization of exposure limits for a certain number of substances, taking into account existing exposure limits.
4. Establish for toxic substances standard methods for measuring and evaluating work place air concentrations and biological indicators of the workers involved, together with quality control programmes for their use.
5. Develop preventive and protective measures for substances recognized as being carcinogenic and other dangerous substances and processes which may have serious harmful effects on health.
6. Establish Community rules for limiting exposure to noise and continue work on developing a basis for Community measures on vibrations and non-ionizing radiation.

II. ERGONOMIC MEASURES, PROTECTION AGAINST ACCIDENTS AND DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

7. Work out safety proposals, particularly for certain high-risk activities, including proposals on specific measures for the prevention of accidents involving falls, manual lifting, handling and dangerous machinery.
8. Examine the major-accident hazards of certain industrial activities covered by Directive 82/501/EEC ⁽⁷⁾.
9. Work out ergonomic measures and accident prevention principles with the aim of determining the limits of the constraints imposed on various groups of the working population by the design of equipment, the tasks required and the working environment so that they are not prejudicial to their health and safety.
10. Work out proposals on lighting at the work place.
11. Organize exchanges of experience with a view to establishing more clearly the principles and methods of organization and training of the departments responsible for inspection in the fields of safety, health and hygiene at work.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ No L 230, 5. 8. 1982, p. 1.

III. ORGANIZATION

12. Make recommendations on the organizational and advisory role of the departments responsible for dealing with health and safety problems in small and medium-sized undertakings, by defining, in particular, the role of specialists in occupational medicine, hygiene and safety.
13. Draw up the principles and criteria for monitoring workers whose health and safety are likely to be seriously at risk, such as certain maintenance and repair workers, certain migrant workers and certain workers in subcontracting undertakings.
14. Draw up the principles for participation by workers and their representatives in the improvement of health and safety measures at the work place.

IV. TRAINING AND INFORMATION

15. Ensure that employers and workers who are liable to be exposed to chemicals and other substances at their work place have adequate information on those substances.
Prepare information notices and manuals on the handling of certain dangerous substances, particularly those covered by Community Directives. If need be, and taking account of existing Community regulations on the matter, draw up proposals on the establishment of systems and codes for the identification of dangerous substances at the work place.
16. (a) Draw up programmes aimed at better training as regards occupational hazards and measures for the safety of those at work (safety training) and
(b) Training schemes intended for specific groups:
 - young workers,
 - groups who have special need of up-to-date information, i.e. workers doing a job to which they are not accustomed or who

have difficulty in acquiring information through the usual channels, or to whom it is difficult to communicate information.

- workers in key positions, i.e. people who lay down working conditions, communicate information, etc.

V. STATISTICS

17. Establish comparable data on mortality and occupational diseases and collect data from existing sources on the frequency, gravity and causes of accidents at work and occupational diseases, including, as far as possible, data on vulnerable groups of workers and absenteeism due to illness.
18. Compile an inventory of existing cancer registers at local, regional and national level in order to assess the comparability of the data contained in them and to ensure better coordination at Community level.

VI. RESEARCH

19. Identify and coordinate topics for applied research in the field of safety and health at work which can be the subject of future Community action.

VII. COOPERATION

20. Within the framework of existing procedures, continue to cooperate with international organizations such as the World Health Organization and the International Labour Office and with national organizations and institutes outside the Community.
21. Continue to cooperate on other action by the Community and by Member States, where it proves worthwhile;

Requests the Commission to prepare annually, after consulting the Member States, a forward outline of the work it intends to carry out on the implementation of this resolution.

COMMISSION
OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Directorate-General
Employment, Social Affairs and Education

Luxembourg, Annex III

HEALTH AND SAFETY DIRECTORATE

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR 1984

OF THE

ACTION PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

ON

SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK

JANUARY 1984

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This forward outline of the work during 1984 for the implementation of the Resolution of Council has been prepared with the assistance of the Advisory Committee for Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work and following consultation with Member States.

Section I. Protection against dangerous substances. Actions 1-6

- a) Complete preparation of a proposal for a directive on the protection of workers against risks to their health by the proscription of specified agents and/or work processes.
- b) Complete preparation of a proposal for a directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to benzene at work.
- c) Complete preparation of a communication to Council on exposure limits.
- d) Continue preparation and publication of reports on health surveillance of workers exposed to specific agents eg. manganese, beryllium, toluene and styrene.
- e) Continue evaluation of available data on cadmium, nickel and acrylonitrile.
- f) Continue work on quality control of blood lead estimations and ZPP standardisations.
- g) Continue work on the health effects of non-ionising radiation with particular attention to lasers.
- h) Continue work on the assessment of passive air sampling techniques.
- i) Commence a review of chemical agents which may cause harmful effects by skin penetration.

Section II. Ergonomic measures, protection against accidents and dangerous situations. Actions 7-11

- a) Continue the exchange of information and experience between government safety inspectors.
- b) Continue the development of safety training programmes and practice with particular reference to agriculture, fishing and the oil and gas extractive industries.
- c) Commence preparation of a discussion paper on safety in the design and use of tools and equipment.
- d) Commence preparation of model information notices for the guidance of employers and workers on agents listed in Annex III of Council Directive 82/501/EEC (Seveso Directive).

Section III. Organization. Actions 12-14

- a) Complete a review of the 1962 and 1966 Commission Recommendations on occupational diseases.
- b) Commence a review of current practices of participation by workers and their representatives in matters of safety and health in the workplace.

Section IV. Training and information. Actions 15-16

- a) Complete preparation of model information notices for workers on lead and asbestos.
- b) Commence a review of current practices of provision of information to employers and workers exposed to dangerous substances at work.

Section V. Statistics. Actions 17-18

- a) Continue collaboration with the Statistical Office in the collection and use of statistics on mortality and occupational diseases, and development of the 6th Statistical Programme of the European Communities 1985-87.
- b) Commence a review of current practices of cancer registration with special reference to availability and confidentiality of information.

Section VI. Research. Action 19

- a) Commence work on the preparation of research programmes on ergonomics and safety at work.

Section VII. Co-operation. Actions 20-21

- a) Participate in the 70th Session of the ILO Conference and ILO Technical Meetings.
- b) Collaborate with WHO and IPCS in the preparation of technical reports and meetings.
- c) Continue the formal exchange of information with US and Swedish agencies.

OTHER ASPECTS RELATED TO
COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Information meetings

In 1983 the commission organized four information meetings (referred to, according to the language used, as seminars or group courses) which were attended by many members of the Committee.

A meeting for labour inspectors from the Member States considered legislation on works safety committees which had recently been introduced in Ireland, the Netherlands and particularly in France. These new laws have narrowed the differences in the scope of the legislation (threshold of application and type of undertaking) but the major obstacle to Community action continues to be the fact that in several countries the establishment of such committees is not compulsory.

At a second meeting for labour inspectors in London, the UK labour inspectorate demonstrated organizational and measurement techniques in use at national and regional level aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness in the present climate of budgetary and staffing restrictions.

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) considered the advisability of asking the Commission to draft a framework directive on occupational safety. This idea stemmed from the encouraging results from the framework directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work (Directive 80/1107/EEC of 27.11.1980).

Arising out of the opinion given by the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health at Work in September 1981 and with a view to Community action, the European employers' organization (UNICE-CLE) studied the question of information on safety and health to be provided for workers.