

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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**ELEVENTH PROGRESS REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON SAFETY, HYGIENE AND HEALTH PROTECTION AT WORK
- PERIOD 1986 -**

(Submitted by the Commission)

Com 263 f.

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 Eleventh Progress Report (Doc. No. V/LUX/7192/1987) in the meeting of 24 and 25 November 1987.

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LEGAL BASIS

Council Decision of 27 June 1974 on the setting up of an Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work (extracts):

"The Council of the European Communities Whereas a standing body should be envisaged to assist the Commission in the preparation and implementation of activities in the field of safety, hygiene and health protection at work and to facilitate cooperation between national administrations, trade unions and employers' organizations...

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

An Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work is hereby established.

Article 2

The Committee shall have the task of assisting the Commission in the preparation and implementation of activities in the fields of safety, hygiene and health protection at work ...

Article 3

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."

II GENERAL REMARKS

a) Membership of the Committee

On 22 November 1986 (1), the Council appointed the Portuguese members of the Committee (Annex I).

As at 31 December, the Spanish members had still not been appointed.

Following the Commission Decision of 17 March 1986, Mr Marin, Vice President of the Commission with responsibility for employment, social affairs and education, was appointed Chairman of the Committee.

b) Structure

- The structure adopted by the Committee at its plenary meeting on 3 and 4 September 1985 has been maintained (2).
- Six ad hoc groups continued their work (see Annex II for the terms of reference and membership of each of these groups).
- The Intermediate Group was set up at the plenary meeting of 21 and 22 May 1986 (Annex III), comprising three representatives from each of the following groups: governments, trade unions, employers and the chairmen of each of the ad hoc groups.
A rota system is used for the government representatives, whereby the representative of the Member State holding the Council Presidency and the next two Member States in line for the Presidency are members of the Intermediate Group. Accordingly, the representatives for the period 1 July to 31 December 1986 were from the United Kingdom, Belgium and Denmark.

(1) OJ C 296 of 22.11.1986

(2) See Tenth Progress Report of the Advisory Committee, II - b.2.

NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND NUMBER OF MEETING DAYS 1975/1986

	NUMBER OF MEETINGS											NUMBER OF MEETING DAYS												
	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975
COMMITTEE	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	4	4	2	2	2	1	2	6	6	5	5	2
Working Party I	-	3	5	7	6	6	4	9	5	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Working Party II	-	-	1	2	3	2	3	2	3	-	1	1	-	4	10	11	11	11	8	15	10	6	2	1
Working Party III	-	-	2	1	2	3	4	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	6	6	2	1	4	-	1
Restricted Group	-	1	2	3	2	4	2	4	4	2	1	-	-	1	2	3	2	4	2	4	4	3	1	-
AHG on Occupational Diseases	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AHG on Carbon Tetrachloride	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AHG on Safety (techn. aspects)	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AHG on Safety (informations)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AHG on Carcinogenic Agents	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AHG on Occupational Health Serv	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AHG on Pathogenic Agents	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intermediate Group	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	15	9	11	14	14	16	14	20	15	10	6	4	23	14	19	20	23	24	31	25	18	9	5	5

II ACTIVITIES

a) Summary

Opinions delivered

- 1 Directive on limit values
- 2 Implementation plan for 1987 of the programme of action of the European Communities on safety and health at work
- 3 Rapid exchange of information

Activities of the ad hoc groups

- 4 Ad hoc Group on "Occupational diseases"
- 5 Ad hoc Group on "Occupational health services"
- 6 Ad hoc Group on "Safety (technical aspects)"
- 7 Ad hoc Group on "Safety (organization and information)"
- 8 Ad hoc Group on "Pathogenic agents"
- 9 Ad hoc Group on "Carcinogenic agents"

Other activities

- 10 Intermediate Group
- 11 Extension of the activities of the Committee to the radiation protection of workers
- 12 Information activities

b) Detailed description

1 Directive on Limit Values

The Committee's opinion is not mentioned in the Draft Directive on Limit Values since the Council is in general reluctant to refer to internal Commission consultations. However, the consultations on the proposal were mentioned in the explanatory memorandum.

The proposal contained a list of around one hundred agents concerning which there are relatively few points of divergence in the Member States' lists. Other agents will be examined at a later date.

The Committee expressed a large number of criticisms of the draft Directive and of the procedure used in its preparation. It was proposed to set up an ad hoc group to monitor the drawing up of a list of agents to be included in annex to this draft and give its opinion on any agent or group of agents to be added.

2 Implementation plan for 1987 of the programme of action of the European Communities on safety and health at work

The Committee made a number of general remarks (priority, relations between the Commission departments concerned) and on specific subjects: cancer, occupational diseases, etc.

Its general comments included a number of criticisms of the form of the action programme, pointing out that it did not cover all of the ad hoc groups' activities, that it should be a clearer reflexion of the priorities set by the Committee in 1985 and finally that the annual programme should review the implementation of the previous year's programme.

The Committee also hopes to see an improvement in relations between the different Directorates-General which would allow it to take action at the most appropriate time.

It stressed that priority should be given to carcinogenic agents and that research into occupational diseases should be stepped up.

Finally, it called for a study into the effects of financial incentives to improve safety at the workplace.

3 Rapid exchange of information

A draft Council Decision was drawn up by the Commission with a view to setting up a Community system for the rapid exchange of information on the dangers arising from the use of products (1) at the workplace.

Under this system, any Member State which decides to adopt emergency measures with a view ^{to} preventing, restricting or attaching specific conditions to the use of a product at the workplace because it represents a serious or immediate hazard to the health and safety of workers shall inform the Commission without delay. Prior consultation shall take place, if possible, with the workers and employers.

The information supplied shall permit the identification of the product or batch of products and shall include, in particular, a description of its nature and properties, information on the nature and scale of the dangers involved and the measures which the Member State has decided to take.

(1) "Product" is taken to mean any substance, preparation, material or equipment used at the workplace.

The Commission will disseminate this information and other Member States shall inform the Commission as soon as possible of any measures they have decided to take.

The Commission shall inform the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work. Cooperation is provided for with the ILO using the international hazard warning system.

The aim of this system is to reduce the risks arising from the use of products at the workplace, in line with the second programme of action of the European Communities on safety at work.

4 Ad hoc Group on Occupational Diseases

The Group drew up a draft recommendation amending the EEC recommendations of 23.7.1962 and 23.7.1966.

This was discussed at the plenary meeting of 21 and 22 May 1986 and a number of amendments were made.

A draft list of occupational diseases was drawn up by a group of experts, taking into account existing national lists, the list annexed to the recommendation of 23.7.1962 and the medical and epidemiological knowledge available. The draft list will be examined by the AHG in 1987.

5 Ad hoc Group on Occupational Health Services

At the two meetings held in 1986, the Group identified where its priorities should lie. These are outlined in a Commission document which will be examined in January 1987.

6 Ad hoc Group on Safety: Technical Aspects

The Group submitted a draft opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the Member States' laws on simple pressure vessels. This opinion was adopted by the Committee, with the reservation that the draft Directive was limited in that it excluded a whole range of equipment that could be pressurized.

The Group was also called upon to draw up a proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the Member States' laws on "mechanical engineering" machines. Work in this new area will continue in 1987.

7 Ad hoc Group on Safety: Organization and Information

The Group's terms of reference were to draw up a draft Council Directive for the setting up of a Community system for the rapid exchange of information on the risks arising from the use of products at the workplace (see 1). This draft was adopted by the Committee. The Group is now drawing up a framework Directive on safety.

8 Ad hoc Group on Pathogenic Agents

This Group, concerned with the protection of workers against the risks arising from exposure to microbiological agents at work, drew up a draft opinion on the Council Directive concerning the protection of workers against the risks arising from exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work. This opinion will be discussed at the plenary meeting in July 1987.

9 Ad hoc Group on Carcinogenic Agents

The Group decided on a number of priorities:

- a the Directive is restricted to carcinogenic substances and does not extend to other dangerous agents;
- b the Directive should include a list of carcinogenic substances based on the priorities for the protection of workers against exposure at work. This list should lay down a number of limit values;
- c the Committee would like to be consulted by the Commission on any addition to this list;
- d specific training should be provided for employers and workers who may be exposed to chemical agents at work and for the staff responsible for their instruction or training.

The work of this Group will continue in 1987 with a view to drawing up a final opinion on carcinogens. A number of documents have been drawn up by the Commission with this end in view.

Other activities

10 Intermediate Group

The Intermediate Group serves as a link between the plenary Committee and the various ad hoc groups. It has no power of decision but its purpose is to improve the organization of all the meetings. It meets twice a year, one month before the plenary meeting. For its constitution, see II b and for its membership, Annex III.

At its first meeting, the Intermediate Group heard the reports of the chairmen of each ad hoc group and examined proposals for the creation of new groups. On the basis of this, it drew up the draft agenda and established the programme for the plenary meeting. The extension of the activities of the Committee to the radiation protection of workers was also discussed, and this point was added to the agenda for the plenary meeting.

11 Extension of the Committee's competence to nuclear safety

The aim of this extension is to make good the lack of consultation between workers and employees within the framework of a standing Advisory Committee in the field of the radiation protection of workers.

The Commission intends to propose an amendment to the Council Decision (1) on the setting up of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work which will extend its present terms of reference to radiation protection.

(1) OJ L 185 of 9.7.1974

At its plenary meeting on 4 and 5 November, the Committee approved this amendment to the internal regulations. The members of the Committee expressed the wish that the wording of this amendment would specify "ionizing radiation at the workplace" in order to encompass all places where workers are threatened by radiation. Furthermore, the Committee stressed that the financial and documentary resources needed for the extension of the activities entailed by this Decision should be made available.

12 Information activities

The Committee's secretariat continued its work in the field of information contributing to:

- a the "Monthly Bulletin of the European Communities" (see contributions in Annex IV)
- b the "General Report of the European Communities", as follows:

"The Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work held two plenary meetings at which it delivered its opinions in connection with the implementation of the second programme of action on safety and health at work. It reaffirmed its willingness to work within the framework of the new approach adopted by the Commission with a view to completing the internal market by 1992".

U Analysis of work

a Expansion of activities

1986 was marked by a considerable increase in the Advisory Committee's activities: 23 days of meetings in 1986 compared with 14 in 1985 (see table on page 5), owing to the fact that six ad hoc groups came into full operation in 1986 and the Intermediate Group held its first meeting.

The trend towards a reduction in the Committee's activities was thus reversed.

The reason for this was the stepping up of the work in the departments of DG V, in implementation of the second programme of action of the European Communities on safety and health at work, and this trend should continue and grow.

b Extension of competence to the Euratom Treaty

In the light of recent events, the Committee felt that any measures which might improve the protection of workers' health against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation should be taken.

However, the Committee's terms of reference under the Council Decision (1) concern the economy as a whole, excluding the extractive industries, which are the responsibility of the Safety and Health Commission for the Mining and Other Extractive Industries, and the field of the health protection of workers against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation.

(1) OJ L 185 of 9.7.74

However, although the Euratom Treaty provides for consultation with the Economic and Social Committee in this field, it makes no provision for the consultation of employers and workers in the drawing up of Community measures and proposals to the Council.

Accordingly, when consulted on an extension of its competence to nuclear safety, the Committee was in favour of the proposal, and in its communication to the Council of 20.8.1986 on the development of measures taken by the Community in implementation of Chapter III of the Euratom Treaty "Health and Safety" (1) the Commission proposed an amendment to the Decision setting up the Advisory Committee which would bring radiation protection into its terms of reference.

This Commission initiative bears witness to the Committee's effectiveness as an instrument for the preparation of decisions in the field of the protection of the health and safety of workers.

c Implications of the Single Act

The text of the Single European Act, reforming the EEC Treaty, of 25 March 1985, provides for the necessary means for the speeding up of the policies which will lead to greater economic and monetary union of the Community.

According to the provisions of the text, certain decisions will now be taken by a qualified majority and not by a unanimous vote. This should enable proposals for the creation of the internal market, which is to be completed by 1992, to be implemented more rapidly (2).

1 COM(86) 434 final

2 See Tenth Progress Report of the Committee, IV c.

As regards social policy, Article 21 of the Single Act stipulates that:

"The EEC Treaty shall be supplemented by the following:

Article 118A

Member States shall pay particular attention to encouraging improvements, especially in the working environment, as regards the health and safety of workers, and shall set as their objective the harmonization of conditions in this area, while maintaining the improvements made.

In order to help achieve the objective laid down in the first paragraph, the Council, acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission, in cooperation with the European Parliament and after consulting the Economic and Social Committee, shall adopt, by means of directives, minimum requirements for gradual implementation, having regard to the conditions and technical rules obtaining in each of the Member States.

Such Directives shall avoid imposing administrative, financial and legal constraints in a way which would hold back the creation and development of small and medium-sized undertakings.

The provisions adopted pursuant to this Article shall not prevent any Member State from maintaining or introducing more stringent measures for the protection of working conditions compatible with this Treaty."

The Advisory Committee welcomes this clear statement of intention to assume responsibility for the problem of the protection of the health and safety of workers.

11

It also sees in it the vindication of the work it has been carrying out for the past eleven years and considers that these provisions confirm the observations made in successive progress reports.

It expresses the hope that this text may result in the better organization of the Commission's work in this field and in the mobilizing of the staff and budget resources needed to ensure the proper execution of a political will expressed in such clear terms.

d Conclusions

The first results of the redirection of the Committee's work and the reorganization of the Committee itself are reflected in an increase in the number of meetings.

This new impetus is the result of a favourable political climate reflected by the request for an extension of its competence to the Euratom Treaty and by the explicit provisions of Article 118A of the Single Act concerning the health and safety of workers.

The Commission must now carry through its intentions and mobilize the resources needed for rational administration of the bodies concerned.

List of full and alternate members of the
Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work
(OJ C 355 of 31.12.85 and OJ C 296 of 22.11.86)

(for the period 17 December 1985 to 16 December 1988)

I. GOVERNEMENT REPRESENTATIVES

a) Full members

Belgium	Mr G. BENS	Mr L. DENONNE
Denmark	Mr H. GROVE	Mr E. ANDERSEN
Germany	Mr M. NÖTHLICH	Mr H.-F. WOLFF
Spain		
Greece	Mr C. VASILOPOULOS	Mrs H. GEORGOPOULOU
France	Mr J. BRUN	Mr M. LAROQUE
Ireland	Mrs MR O'CALLAGHAN	Mr T. WALSH
Italy	Mr N. FIORE	Mr A. FREDELLA
Luxembourg	Mr A. SCHUSTER	M N. RUME
Netherlands	Mr A.J. DE ROOS	Mr E.H. SICCAMA
Portugal	Mrs J. da E. PINTO MARVÃO	Mr A.A. VAREJÃO CASTELO BRANCO de SOUSA
U.K.	Mr A.B. MARTIN	Mr C.D. BURGESS

b) Alternates

Belgium	Mr J.M. DE GREVE	Mr P. CAJOT
Denmark	Mrs C. SKJOLDAGER	Mr K. OVERGAARD-HANSEN
Germany	Mr R. OPFERMANN	Mr K. HORNEFFER
Spain		
Greece	Mrs A. KAFETZOPOULOU	Mr A. ZORBAS
France	Mr A. ERNST	Mr G. ROBERT
Ireland	Mr B. NEVILLE	M T. O'BRIEN
Italy	Mrs G. ROCCA	Mr M. GUERRIERI
Luxembourg	Mr M. GLODT	Mr J.P. DEMUTH
Netherlands	Mr I.L. RIKMENSPOEL	Mr C.J. VOS
Portugal	Mr C. CARDOSO PINTO	Mr E. PESTANA MARQUES
U.K.	Mrs P.G. CATTO	Mr J.T. CARTER

II. WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES

a) Full members

Belgium	Mr P. SILON	Mr P.-P. MAETER
Denmark	Mr S. BØGH	Mrs B. CHRISTENSEN
Germany	Mr R. KONSTANTY	Mr H. PARTIKEL
Spain		
Greece	Mr S. LAIMOS	Mrs L. VASSILAKOU
France	Mr M. MARTIN	Mr R. GUEVEL
Ireland	Mr D. BRANIGAN	Mr D. O'SULLIVAN
Italy	Mr L. LELI	Mrs R. TOMASSINI
Luxembourg	Mr R. NURENBERG	Mr A. GROBEN
Netherlands	Mr E.R. BUNT	M D. VAN DE KAMP
Portugal	Mr J.M. LEITÃO RIBEIRO ARENGA	Mr M.A. CABRAL SARAMAGO FERREIRA
U.K.	Mrs A. MADDOCKS	Mr P. JACQUES

b) Alternates

Belgium	Mr S. KENNES	Mr G. HAAZE
Denmark	Mr O. HEEGAARD	Mrs K.L. SVANHOLT
Germany	Mr K. HINNE	Mr W. EGELKRAUT
Spain		
Greece	Mr G. CHRISTODOULOU	Mr A. YERANIOS
France	Mr M. SATU	Mr M. SEDES
Ireland	Mr M. O'HALLORAN	Mr P. KEATING
Italy	Mr C. STANZANI	Mrs C. BRIGHI
Luxembourg	Mr H. DUNKEL	Mr A. GIARDIN
Netherlands	Mr H.P.W. SCHMITZ	Mr W.W. MULLER
Portugal	Mr J. do DIAS GONÇALVES	Mr A. TAVARES
U.K.	Mr A. TUFFIN	Mr R. COYLE

III. EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES

a) Full members

Belgium	Mr A. CORDY	Mr R. LEONARD
Denmark	Mr M. KJEMS FALK	Mr T. JEPSEN
Germany	Mr J.-D. VON HASSELL	Mr U. BÖSHAGEN
Spain		
Greece	Mr I. TSAMOUSSOPOULOS	Mr E. ZIMALIS
France	Mr J.P. PEYRICAL	Mr J. TASSIN
Ireland	Mr A.F. RICE	Mr W.H. O'CONNOR
Italy	Mr F. GIUSTI	Mr E. BUSSETTI
Luxembourg	Mr R. FERRY	Mr P. OLINGER
Netherlands	Mr A.M. DEN BOER	Mrs C. DE MEESTER
Portugal	Mr M. de LIMA AMORIM	Mr J.H.L. da COSTA TAVARES
U.K.	Mrs A.M. MACKIE	Mr P.J. DAVIS

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Belgium	Mr J. BORMANS	Mr P.J. HARDY
Denmark	Mr K. LINIUS	Mr P.S. TALPERG
Germany	Mr E. MÜLLER	Mr P. HARTMANN
Spain		
Greece	Mr A. KALDIS	Mr B. VGONTZAS
France	Mrs V. CORMAN	Mr A. JEROME
Ireland	Mrs C. CARROLL	Mr M. CASSIDY
Italy	Mr T. GARLANDA	Mr A. SCARFINI
Luxembourg	Mr VANDERDONCKT	Mr R. BEFFORT
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Portugal	Mrs J. ROLA ROQUE	Mr M.G. TEVES COSTA
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Title of the Ad hoc Group	Carcinogenic Agents	Occupational Diseases (cont.)	Safety: Technical Aspects	Safety: Organization and Information	Pathogenic Agents	Occupational Health Services
Terms of reference	Determination of the policy for carcinogenic agents	Updating of the list of occupational diseases (Recs 62 & 66)	Essential safety requirements with partic. reference to simple pressure vessels (DG III)	Integration of workers' safety with partic. reference to the rapid exchange of information	Protective measures necessary for workers in the field of biotechnology and measures against harmful pathogens	Organization of health surveillance in labour policy
Membership						
- Chairman	Hamilton (Worker UK)	Cordy (Empl. - BE)	Jean (Gov. FR)	Horneffer (Gov. - DE)	Clare (Empl. UK)	Silon (Worker BE)
- Govt. members	Palk (UK) Klein (DE) Roelfsma (NL)	Costermans (BE) Fredella (IT) Georgopoulou (GR)	Chairman Birden (L) Van Hifte (BE)	Chairman Neville (Ir) Overgaard-Hansen (DK)	Weine (DK) Fredella (IT) Egea (UK)	Siccama (NL) De Greve (BE) Wood (IRL)
- Workers' reps.	... (Expert)	... (Expert)	Siccama (Expert)	Nuyts (Expert)
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2 - 1986

2.1.85. In accordance with the decisions taken at the plenary meeting of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work held on 28 and 29 November 1985,² two *ad hoc* groups met in Luxembourg.

The *ad hoc* group on information relating to safety, which met on 4 February, drafted an opinion concerning the establishment of a system for the rapid exchange of information on the dangers arising from the use of certain products at work.

At its meeting on 10 and 11 February, the *ad hoc* group on pathogenic substances examined the problems posed by the protection of workers in the biotechnology sector and of workers handling pathogenic substances.

3 - 1986

2.1.84. Pursuant to the decisions taken at the seventeenth plenary meeting³ of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, three *ad hoc* groups were convened by the Commission:

(i) the *ad hoc* group on occupational diseases met on 6-7 March and drafted a recommendation concerning the updating of the list annexed to the Commission recommendation of 23 July 1962 to Member States concerning the adoption of a European list of occupational diseases;⁴

(ii) the *ad hoc* group on industrial medicine, meeting on the same dates, carried out an initial examination of a Commission staff paper on improved health protection and safety for workers, with particular reference to services in the field of industrial medicine;

(iii) the *ad hoc* group on pathogenic substances, meeting on 17 March, drew up a list of the most dangerous substances, which it asked the Commission to use as a basis in preparing a proposal for a Directive.

5 - 1986

2.1.92. The Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work held its 18th plenary meeting on 21 and 22 May.¹⁰ It delivered two opinions, one on the rapid exchange of information on hazards arising from the use of dangerous substances at the workplace¹¹ and the other on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to simple pressure vessels.¹² The Committee also decided to set up an intermediate group with the task of coordinating and intensifying its work. Lastly, it reaffirmed its wish to be involved in the new approach adopted by the Commission¹ with the aim of completing the internal market by 1992.²

6 - 1986

2.1.126. The *ad hoc* working party on carcinogenic products, set up in accordance with the decision of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work at its September 1985 meeting,⁶ concluded that a specific directive on carcinogenic products was necessary. It made proposals on the classification of hazardous products and recommended that information sheets be prepared for workers and employers.

7/8 - 1986

2.1.115. On 12 August the Commission convened a select working party of experts from the Member States with a view to revising the European list of occupational diseases (Annex I to the Commission recommendation of 23 July 1962 to Member States concerning the adoption of a European list of occupational diseases).⁷ The new list will be annexed to the draft recommendation⁸ updating the existing one, the draft already having been approved by the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DIRECTORATE
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR 1987
OF THE
ACTION PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
ON
SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK

JANUARY 1987

This outline of the work for 1987 to implement 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 a strategy for the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens*.
- b) Complete preparation of a proposal for a Directive on the protection of workers from dangerous pathogenic organisms* and guidelines for the protection of workers against AIDS.
- c) Complete preparation of a Communication to Council on chemical agents for which skin penetration is a hazard.
- d) Continue preparation of a Communication to Council on the measurement of exposure to dangerous agents in the workplace.
- e) Continue evaluation of available scientific data on agents in Annex I of Directive 80/1107/CEE, in particular nickel and chlorinated hydrocarbons.
- f) Continue preparation of technical reports, in particular relating to exposure limit values for individual agents, the evaluation of mixed exposures* and biological monitoring.
- g) Continue work on health effects of noise and vibration.
- h) Commence preparation of a proposal for a Directive on cadmium compounds.
- i) Commence preparation of a proposal for a Directive for the protection of agriculture workers using pesticides.
- j) Commence work on the revision of Directives 82/605/EEC (lead) and 83/477/EEC (asbestos)*.

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

- a) Complete preparation of a proposal for a Council Decision concerning the rapid exchange of information on restrictions in the use of tools and equipment in the workplace.
- b) Continue to organize exchanges of experience and information between Member States concerning the principles and methods of organization and training of the departments for inspection in the fields of safety, health and hygiene at work.
- c) Continue collaboration on matters of safety in the workplace in the context of the new approach to technical harmonization* (machines, personal protective equipment, etc.).
- d) Continue work on establishing guidelines for the prevention of back injuries.

* Priority topics

- e) Continue work on establishing guidelines for human factor considerations in the safety of process control systems and the use of information processing equipment.
- f) Continue preparation of a proposal for a framework Directive on safety provisions in the workplace.
- g) Continue preparation of safety specifications for the design of agricultural buildings.
- h) Commence preparation of a Directive on individual protective equipment.

Section III. Organization. Actions 12-14

- a) Complete preparation of a submission to Council concerning occupational health services*.
- b) Complete a review of Commission Recommendations on occupational diseases.

Section IV. Training and information. Actions 15-16

- a) Complete a review of the safety training requirements for employers, workers' representatives and safety specialists in industry.
- b) Continue work on programmes of training for workers in special risk industries e.g. fishing, agriculture, and the construction industry.

Section V. Statistics. Actions 17-18

- a) Continue collaboration with the Statistical Office in the collection and use of statistics on mortality, accidents and occupational diseases and, contribute to the development of a review of cancer registration.

Section VI. Research. Action 19

Section VII. Co-operation. Actions 20-21

- a) Participate in the 73rd Session of the ILO Conference on safety in the construction industry, and in the Technical Maritime Conference of ILO.
- b) Continue collaboration with WHO and IPCS in the preparation of technical reports and meetings.
- c) Maintain relations with the US, Canadian, Ontario, Swedish and Norwegian agencies.

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