

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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**REPORT ON THE EXECUTION  
OF THE COUNCIL DECISION  
CONCERNING THE ORGANISATION  
OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR  
OF SAFETY, HYGIENE  
AND HEALTH PROTECTION AT WORK**

(presented by the Commission)

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Commission of the European Communities wishes to thank the Ministers in each Member State for the way their interest and involvement gave this campaign optimal impact.

The Commission also wishes to thank all those whose initiative, proposals, enthusiasm and competence contributed to the success of the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

Such thanks are particularly due to the Advisory Steering Committee, established by the Council and which ran everything, the members of the National Liaison Committees, whose enthusiasm gave rise to a very large number of initiatives, and, finally, to the workers, employers, researchers, teachers and the specialists on company health and safety committees who drew up schemes at the workplace level and thus raised awareness of the work of the European institutions in terms of combating industrial accidents and occupational diseases.

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## A. INTRODUCTION

This is the report called for by Article 6 of the Council Decision of 25 July 1991<sup>1</sup> concerning an action programme for the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work<sup>1</sup>. In accordance with this Decision, the Year was launched on 1 March 1992 and concluded on 28 February 1993.

The Community's motives in organising the European Year were threefold:

- the fact that the third programme of action on safety and health had been concluded in 1992, and there was a need to assess its results, demonstrate its *raison d'être* and emphasise the need for commitment on the part of both employers and workers;
- the major importance of alerting public opinion, increasing public information, and raising awareness among employers and workers to ensure the success of the third programme of action;
- the need to improve awareness of the content and implications of Community legislation on safety and health.

The objective laid down by the Council Decision was "to conduct a number of activities designed to promote and enhance the value of the substantial body of Community measures in the field of safety, hygiene and health at work". These Community measures take the form of 26 directives based on three action programmes carried out by the Commission between 1978 and 1992 and which together form a real body of legislation.

The principle of subsidiarity was put to exemplary use in the European Year. Although it began as a Community initiative, a part of the objective assigned to the European Year was carried out effectively by decentralised means at national level in the Member States. The management structure for the European Year were both a driving force and a guarantee of subsidiarity:

- the Advisory Steering Committee, made up of representatives from each Member State, met on 18 occasions. All its recommendations were followed by the Commission;
- there were twelve national liaison committees, which were tripartite (with representatives of labour, management and government), active both in defining national priorities within an overall plan and in selecting projects to be funded;
- the Advisory Committee on safety, hygiene and health protection at work<sup>2</sup>, representing the social partners at Community level, was consulted and informed throughout the preparation and organisation of the European Year, even though it was not included in the arrangements provided for in the Council Decision establishing the European Year.

The funding of the projects and activities throughout the Year also reflected the desire to apply the principle of subsidiarity.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 214 of 2 August 1991

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 185 of 9 July 1974

- 60% of the funds provided were made available to the national liaison committees to support their own initiatives and choice of national priorities, which clearly favoured action at the level of companies and SMEs.
- The schemes organised directly by the Commission, once approved by the representatives of the Member States and the social partners in the committees mentioned above, were carried out in cooperation with the Member States, including the opening and closing conferences, the film festival, the choice of TV productions to be subsidised, and the national colloquia and conferences. The content and methods of distribution of booklets, posters, stickers, etc. were carefully discussed with the national liaison committees to take account of each Member State's national identity and responsibilities.

Working through the members of the committees mentioned above, the Commission received extremely effective cooperation from the relevant ministries, trade unions, employers' associations and many professional organisations.

The Community was thus able to act within the limits of the powers conferred on it and the objectives assigned to it by the Council Decision. At all events, wherever the objectives could be met adequately by the Member States, the Commission left the widest possible scope to the national liaison committees, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity.

Thanks to this respect for national diversity, the 508 schemes proposed by the committees and funded by the Commission gave rise to more than 2 092 projects launched by governments or by workers' or employers' associations and sporting the logo of the European Year. The Year thus became a much more extensive event than had been anticipated. All these specific schemes at company level had a powerful effect within firms.

To assess the impact of the European Year, the Commission held a Eurobarometer survey in the spring of 1993. This showed, among other interesting findings, that 21% of Europeans over 15 years of age (some 60 million people) had been affected by the Year. The Advisory Committee on safety, hygiene and health protection at work drew conclusions at its plenary meeting on 28.2.1993 from the first assessment of the Year and made proposals to the Commission on possible future Community action.

This huge campaign enhanced general awareness of the work of the European institutions in this field. Moreover, the breakdown into specific topics (noise, air quality, stress and safety) made it easier to concentrate on the active population and so encourage their active participation in combating industrial accidents and occupational diseases.

It should also be emphasised that in both preparation and development, the European Year enjoyed the effective support of the European Parliament and that progress was very closely monitored by the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities.

## **B. COMMISSION ACTIVITIES**

### **B.1. *Structure and organisation***

- a) Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work
- b) ASC
- c) NLCs
- d) Commission staff

### **B.2. *Events***

- a) Organisation of a European conference to launch the European Year
- b) Organisation of a European conference to close the European Year
- c) Organisation of conferences and/or seminars in each Member State
- d) Organisation of an audiovisual festival
- e) Promoting the design of new systems

### **B.3. *Local schemes***

- a) Co-funded schemes
- b) Transnational projects

### **B.4. *Information and Communication***

- a) Strategic approach
- b) Promotion and publicity
  - 1) Logo
  - 2) Slogan
  - 3) Posters
  - 4) Press releases
  - 5) Illustrated brochure
  - 6) TV spots
  - 7) Direct marketing
  - 8) Promotional articles
- c) Promotion of television broadcasts
- d) Documentation and publications
- e) Press and public relations

### **B.5. *Other awareness-enhancement activities***

- a) Partnerships
- b) Exhibitions and fairs
- c) Philately

In general, the Commission has strictly followed the application provisions of the Council Decision of 25 July 1991 in terms of both the structures created and the kinds of schemes carried out, while seeking to mobilise as many organisations as possible at all levels.

## **B.1. STRUCTURES AND ORGANISATION**

A number of organisations and bodies have been involved in organising and monitoring the Year.

### **a) The Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work<sup>3</sup>**

In accordance with its mandate, this tripartite committee has been involved in drawing up the project as well as the organisational structure of the Year. A smaller group within the Committee has been involved with all work to implement the Year.

### **b) The Advisory Steering Committee (ASC)**

This committee<sup>4</sup>, established on 11 October 1991 in accordance with Article 5 of the Council Decision, has been consulted regularly about the selection of schemes covered by Part II, items A and B, of the Annex to the Decision. Comprising a representative of each Member State and chaired by a representative of the Commission, the Committee met 18 times and was regularly informed by the Commission of progress made.

### **c) The National Liaison Committees (NLCs)**

In accordance with Article 2.2 of the Council Decision, a national liaison committee<sup>5</sup> (NLC) was formed in each Member State. Composed on a tripartite basis (workers, employers, Ministries), it was responsible for coordination, assessment and selection of projects suitable for Community funding and then for the implementation of schemes at national level.

### **d) Commission Staff**

Coordination of the European Year was carried out by Unit V/F/5 of the "Health and Safety" Directorate within the Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs, its task being to monitor the application of the entire Council Decision and, more particularly:

- coordination with the NLCs and the Member States;

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<sup>3</sup> OJ L 185 of 9.7.1974

<sup>4</sup> See list of members in Annex 1

<sup>5</sup> See list of members in Annex 2

- the organisation and implementation of projects planned in accordance with Part II A of the Annex to the Council Decision
- administration, general and budgetary management, including the monitoring and checking of applications for co-funding under Part II B of the Annex to the Council Decision;
- the organisation and chairing of meetings of the ASC;
- cooperation with other Commission departments.

In order to ensure a coherent overall programme, the Commission organised its work to take account of the complementarity and mutual multiplier effects offered by the schemes called for under the Council Decision.

These were therefore divided, on the basis of their nature and objective rather than the funding method, into the following four groups:

- events;
- local schemes;
- information and communication;
- other awareness-enhancement projects.

This structure made it possible to conduct operations in a coherent step-by-step way and made it easier for partners in schemes and others involved in the Year to have a clear understanding of the programme.

## **B.2. EVENTS**

### **a) Organisation of a European Colloquium to launch the European Year (item II.A.1.a of the Annex to the Council Decision)**

The conference to open the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work took place on 12 March 1992 in Lisbon, Portugal, the country then holding the presidency of the Council of the European Communities. The conference was addressed by Mr José A. Silva Peneda, the Portuguese Minister of Employment and President of the Council of Social Affairs Ministers, by Mr van Velzen, Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, Mrs Vasso Papandreou, Member of the European Commission responsible for Employment and Social Affairs, Mr Jean Degimbe, Director-General of DG V and then by Mr Buschak, representing the ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation), and by Mr Castle, representing UNICE (Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe).

This conference also saw the presentation of the results of a public opinion survey on "Europeans and Health and Safety at Work"<sup>6</sup>. Conducted in the Spring of 1991, this showed

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<sup>6</sup> For detailed information see the document "Europeans and Health and Safety at Work - public opinion survey"



that the public at large wanted information and would support Community action on health and safety.

**b) Organisation of a European Conference to close the European Year (item II.A.1.b of the Annex to the Council Decision)**

The European Year was closed on 26 February 1993 in Copenhagen, during the Danish Presidency, in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark.

At the closing conference, Mrs Jytte Andersen, Danish Minister of Employment and the then President of the Council of Social Affairs Ministers, Mr Buschak, representing the ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation), Mr Castle, representing UNICE (Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe) and Mr Pronk (Member of the European Parliament) stressed how the importance of the issues involved in terms of both human lives (8 000 deaths per year) and the economy (a loss of ECU 20 billion a year) had led to the organisation of this awareness-enhancement campaign.

The speakers stressed the major impact achieved by schemes during the Year, which had proved very successful despite the technical nature of the subjects tackled. All emphasised that the results achieved were essentially due to the close cooperation between worker, employer and government representatives working together in the national liaison committees and other consultative bodies assisting the Commission.

The conference also featured the presentation of prizes for the various competitions organised during the Year; the ISSA competition (§B.2.e), the European health and safety prize (§B.2.e) and the FEIEA press competition (§B.4.e).

**c) Organisation of conferences, colloquia and/or seminars in all Member States (Item II.A.1.c of the annex to the Council Decision)**

The ASC endorsed the proposal of the national liaison committees to organise a national conference in each Member State. The majority of these featured a speech by the relevant minister, the presence of top administrators and participation by employer and employee representatives.

- Belgium 25-27.11.92 - Antwerp  
Conference on research strategies and comparison of the various national approaches adopted.
- Denmark 8 January 1993 - 23 February 1993  
Regional closing conferences  
The aim was to draw conclusions from the European Year at a regional level.
- Germany 2 July 1992 - Dresden  
Information about the dangers of airborne contaminants, the situation in the chemical industry, asbestos disposal, emissions from diesel motors, wood dust and the aspiration of dangerous substances.  
18 March 1992 - Erfurt  
Formal opening of the European Year in Germany with the participation of all bodies responsible for industrial safety, employer and employee representatives, ministries, the trade insurance associations and the Länder.  
Presentation of the German programme for the European Year.  
27 October 1993 - Düsseldorf  
Conference to summarise and evaluate the European Year, organised in cooperation with the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Arbeitssicherheit (BASI) as part of the exhibition "Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin - A+A 1993".
- Greece 28-30 January 1993 - Athens  
Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at the Workplace. Prospects in view of European integration.
- Spain 24 March 1992 - Madrid  
National conference to launch the European Year. Presentation of objectives and of activities scheduled throughout the year.
- France 8 - 9 September 1992 - Paris  
"International Forum on Occupational Health 1992". Evaluation of risks and the new preventive situation arising from Community directives.

- Ireland** 20-21 March 1992 - Dublin  
Irish National Conference for the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work. On the theme of "Getting the the health and safety message across", this conference was divided into different specialist seminars such as on construction or general manufacturing.
- Italy** 28 April 1992 - Rome  
Conference to open the European Year with a discussion on European directives and their transposition into Italian law.
- Luxembourg** 30 November - 2 December 1992 - Luxembourg  
International Conference on "Well-being at Work" and Community policy in this field.
- Netherlands** 7-11 April 1992 - Amsterdam  
"Working Conditions Congress 92"  
2-4 February 1993 - Maastricht  
"The Workplace"  
Each of these conferences included a number of seminars on various activities and objectives concerning health and safety at the workplace.
- Portugal** 2-4 June 1992 - Porto  
"Health and safety at work - a factor in socio-economic cohesion"  
In addition to issues involving health and safety at work, attention was paid to aspects of the Community-wide development of the social dimension of the internal market.
- United Kingdom** 9-11 November 1992 - London  
Health and Safety Enforcement in Europe  
To promote consistency of compliance through the exchange of information about the management and delivery of labour inspection and enforcement. It was attended by 225 representatives of bodies responsible for health and safety in all the Member States (except Luxembourg), Eastern Europe and the ILO.

d) **Organisation of an audiovisual festival**  
(Item II.A.2.a of the annex to the Council Decision)

The European festival of training videos on safety and health protection at work was held in Thessaloniki on 15-17 October 1992. The aim of the event was to make people more aware of the extensive range and high quality of films now being produced in the field of training for health and safety at work and to encourage the exchange of information and experience between audiovisual companies and users in the various Member States.

This event was attended by some 1000 people, training and safety professionals from the 12 Member States of the Community, the EFTA countries and also from Iran and Czechoslovakia. More than 350 films were viewed by the preselection jury. 323 were accepted, 59 of these being entered for the competition.

The final jury, comprising leading European figures in the field of training and safety representing trade unions, employers and the media, was chaired by Ms Melina Mercouri and awarded nine prizes, two for each category and a Supreme award, the François Staedelin Memorial Prize<sup>7</sup> for the best video in any category.

The first prize in the category for general awareness enhancement was awarded to a British film *Accidents don't happen in the office*. This describes the problems encountered by two people and shows the often unrecognised hazards of office life. The second prize in this category was awarded to a French film *Stop au bruit*, a very didactic production describing the phenomenon of noise and measures to prevent it.

In the category for awareness enhancement among specific target groups, the first prize was awarded to the British film *No going back* - an intense and dramatic story of an employee paralysed after falling down slippery stairs. This film also received the François Staedelin Memorial Prize. The second prize went to another British film showing a teenager doing a work experience course on a farm and the hazards faced there.

In the "Training" category, the first prize was awarded to a French film *Prévention-intérim-industrie* which examined a welding accident from three different points of view: that of the company employing the welder, the temping agency and the welder. The second prize went to the Portuguese film *Segurança no trabalho sector das pescas* (Occupational safety in the fishing industry), a simple, clear and precise film about safety at sea.

In the "Information" category, the first prize was awarded to a German film "Easy und Isabella" (Easy and Isabella), an amusing TV series in 13 episodes which describes the problems of a careless worker and his wife. The second prize was also a German production "Wir arbeiten gut und sicher".

Finally, the award for audience favourite was won by the British film *Dead serious about safety*, produced by the staff of British Rail and describing an accident which killed a number of railwaymen in 1991.

Participants and the authorities responsible all agreed that the festival should not be just a one-off event.

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<sup>7</sup> This award is to commemorate François Staedelin, Chairman of the European Economic and Social Committee, who died on 30 December 1991. Well-known and respected by employers and workers alike, François Staedelin played a major role in drafting European employment legislation.

**e) Promotion of the design of new systems.**  
(Item II.C.1.) of the annex to the Council Decision)

In order to promote and reward innovative approaches, two types of competition were launched at European level, one designed to reward the best training material, the other for the most significant schemes to bring about specific improvements to health and safety conditions at the workplace.

– **ISSA competition**

The Commission and the International Social Security Association (ISSA) jointly organised a competition on "Safety Education and Training".

Prizes were awarded for the best education and training material on the prevention of health and safety hazards within the following seven categories "general and vocational training" "higher education", "occupational health and safety experts", "agriculture", "construction", "fishing" and "industrial activities".

220 projects for all Member States were submitted.

The jury, comprising representatives of ISSA and of the Commission, awarded a prize in each category.

The supreme award went to a training course for farmers and their children submitted by the "Irish Farmers' Association".

The jury highly commended the project submitted by the Danish Labour Inspection Service.

In view of the success of the competition, and the high quality of the entries, the Commission has started to investigate the formation of a databank to allow the distribution and use of this material at company level.

– **European Health and Safety Prize**

The Commission threw its weight behind this competition organised in cooperation with the Labour Inspection Service Directorate (Arbejdstilsynet) in Denmark for a product significantly improving health and safety conditions at the workplace.

Of the 19 projects submitted, three were nominated for awards: a Spanish project (CEPREN), a Danish project (Gram Factory) and an Italian one (Fiat).

Two projects were highly commended: a Dutch project (Stratingh College) and a British project (Health Services Advisory Committee).

The CEPREN project, which was awarded the first prize, is designed to provide employers and workers with the information and other resources to equip SMEs with an organisation and structure capable of dealing with current and future health and safety requirements at the workplace. This scheme is worthy of imitation by employers and workers throughout Europe. The Commission will examine means of promoting this scheme.

The prizewinners in these two competitions received their awards at the Copenhagen closing conference (§ B.2.b).

### B.3 LOCAL SCHEMES

Given the scale of the audience involved (the entire active population), the diversity of target groups (young people, SMEs, high-risk sectors) and the available funding, the European Year could only achieve its objectives by maximising the use of intermediaries and multiplier effects.

The Commission felt that greater efficiency could be achieved by putting the emphasis on local schemes in each Member State. It therefore decided to emphasise cofunded schemes (Annex II, item B) by allocating them almost 60% of the Community budget. This policy was successfully implemented thanks to the highly effective cooperation and consensus achieved by the workers', employers' and government representatives on NLCs.

The principle of subsidiarity proved successful in practice.

The Commission found it difficult to contact SME workers and employers directly, given the very large number of such firms, their diversity and their geographical spread. It therefore decided as an initial step to work through European or national federations specific to SMEs.

Examples of these include:

- European Union of Crafts and Small and Medium-sized enterprises (UEAPME);
- Femmes Européennes des Moyennes et Petites Entreprises.

The Commission also carried out an information and awareness-enhancement campaign by contacting 900 Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the European Community, representing the great majority of SMEs active in all sectors, as well as their European organisation "Eurochambres".

As a second step, noting that a large number of SMEs were active in high-risk sectors such as construction, agriculture and fisheries, the Commission contributed to action undertaken by sectoral organisations either at the European level such as:

- Fédération de l'Industrie Européenne de la Construction;
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Bau + Ausbau Gewerbe;
- European Consulting Engineering Network;

or at national level, where information campaigns on the themes and objectives of the Year were carried out by such organisations as:

France:	Confédération de l'Artisanat et des Petites entreprises du Bâtiment (CAPEB), Fédération Nationale des Bâtiments et Travaux publics, Association des Maîtres d'Ouvrages, Fédération Nationale du Bâtiment, Fédération des Industries Mécaniques et Transformatrices des Métaux, Comité Central des Pêches Maritimes, Syndicat National des Entrepreneurs de Réseaux, de Centrales et de Travaux Electriques Publics et Industriels;
Belgium:	Christelijke Centrale der Houtbewerkeren en Bouwvakarbeiders Beroepsverband Antwerpen, FABRIMETAL;
Italy:	Various construction and public works associations and representatives of awarding authorities, Associazione Italiana fra Addetti alla Sicurezza;
Ireland	Construction Industry Federation

Germany: Associations in the agricultural sector;  
Portugal: Associação de Empresas de Construção e Obras Públicas do Sul,  
Associação das Mulheres Agricultoras de Portugal;

By doing so, the Commission and the NLCs have been able to pool their work on SMEs and high-risk sectors and received huge editorial coverage in the sectoral trade press, this being in addition to the stimulation of local schemes.

**a) Co-funded schemes**  
(Item II.B of the Annex to the Council Decision)

National liaison committees (NLCs) received grant applications totalling more than ECU 27 million.

After preselection at national level, 508 projects involving co-funded schemes were submitted by NLCs, approved by the Advisory Steering Committee (ASC) and accepted by the Commission.

The Council Decision called for a minimum of 50% of expenditure on these schemes.

Expenditure on these projects was ECU 7 133 971 out of a total of 12 million, i.e. 60% of total funding.

The average level of Community funding for these projects was of the order of 27%.

Details of these co-funded activities may be found in the summaries of activities provided by the Member States (see §C).

**b) Transnational projects**

Annex 1.2.e of the Council Decision 25 July 1991 states that precedence would be given to projects which fostered transnational exchanges.

54 projects were submitted under this heading. After checking their compliance with the objectives of the European Year, the ASC in turn submitted them, together with its opinion, to the Commission so that the latter could seek appropriate forms of funding.

In the light of the available budget, and the readiness or otherwise of the organisations proposing them to provide follow-up, the Commission decided to support five projects (European Trade Union Confederation, Comité syndical européen des services publics, European Work Hazards Group, European Federation of Agricultural Workers Unions, Bundesverband Landwirtschaftlicher Berufsgenossenschaften). In addition, 10 schemes were funded by national liaison committees, 32 were accorded permission to use the logo.

## **B.4 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

### **a) Strategic approach**

The messages of the European Year were designed to:

- promote and enhance all Community measures concerning safety, hygiene and health protection at work;
- make young people, workers and employers more aware of hazards in their working life and of ways to alleviate these;
- incorporate the underlying rationale for the campaign, i.e. the high human, social and economic cost of industrial accidents and occupational diseases;
- tackle the four priority themes: clean air at work, measures to reduce noise and vibration, safety at work, well-being at work;
- be specifically targeted at individual groups: the working population in general, SMEs, high-risk sectors, young people and education and training;
- be useable in all 12 Member States and in the nine Community languages.

The messages were also designed to encourage the working world to redouble its efforts to eliminate industrial accidents and occupational diseases.

The Commission undertook to create and produce information and communication tools and to distribute these wherever this was best done at the Community level and with its resources. NLCs took charge of this distribution in most cases, in order to ensure that the campaign retained its "grass roots" character.

In its creative and production work, the Commission made use of a range of disciplines as described below.

### **b. Promotion and publicity** (Item II.A.3.b) of the annex to the Council Decision)

#### **1) Logo**

A logo symbolising safety, hygiene and health protection at work was selected right at the beginning of the campaign. Protected by copyright, it was used on all mail sent by the Commission, the NLCs and the promoters of the 508 co-funded schemes. In addition to co-funded projects entitled to use the logo, some 2 092 schemes were granted authorisation to use the logo for the Year and thus played a multiplier role in making the Year better known.

The results of the Eurobarometer survey conducted at the end of the Year (May-June 1993) indicated that the logo was familiar to 21% of Europeans aged over 15 years. This high recognition by the public is an argument for continuing its use to identify action undertaken by the European Communities in this field.

#### **2) Slogan**



The slogan "Europe 92: Let's make it a better place to work" was put forward by the ASC and adopted by the Commission because it was clearly identified with the Year and gave a concise summary of its objectives. In the nine languages of the Community, it was used together with the logo in a wide range of applications.

3) Posters and notices

Posters were adopted as a particularly flexible communication tool for an awareness-enhancement campaign. They were suitable for all kinds of premises used by the organisations or target groups involved in the Year, such as government departments, firms, organisations and educational establishments. Four specific posters were designed around the themes of the Year, the slogan being adapted to reflect experience of these themes and to stress both the progress already made and the need to continue the work.

A fifth more general poster was designed in which the four individual silhouettes of the thematic posters were grouped around the logo and the slogan.

The art work for this general poster was carried over into a smaller notice used for outdoor advertising. Designed for poster space offered free to support the programme of the Commission and of the NLCs, this material made a particular impact in a number of European stations and airports, workplaces, information centres, buses, etc.

A total of 352 721 posters and notices were distributed by NLCs, the Commission (and particularly its external offices), and by Euro-Info-Centres in order to reach SMEs.

4) Press advertisements

It was considered that journals published by trade unions and employer and vocational organisations, given their close ties with members of the NLCs, would be able to carry the messages of the Year in addition to articles.

A black and white advertisement was designed for this purpose, using the art work of the general poster plus a more detailed message in two versions, one intended for "employers" and the other for "workers". 1 870 copies of this advertisement were sent to NLCs to be made available to the press.

5) Illustrated brochure

As a supplement to the publications programme carried out by the Commission (see Paragraph B.4.d), a 12-page colour brochure was produced to meet the information needs of readers not closely acquainted with either the field covered by the Year or Community activities.

The illustrations are based on the silhouettes designed for the campaign and the texts were drawn up in cooperation with the NLCs.

442 727 copies of this brochure were distributed through the same channels as for the posters.

6) TV spots

During the second half of the year, contacts led to an offer by the major satellite TV channels (MTV, CNN, Eurosport, Screensport, Superchannel, Euronews) to provide free broadcasting. It was therefore decided to produce four awareness-enhancement spots on the four themes of the campaign. The series began with a 20-second spot on combatting noise and vibration at work. In terms of the rates normally charged, this free television publicity was worth more than ECU 1 000 000.

7) **Direct marketing**

A limiting direct marketing programme was carried out as a targeted and less expensive way of reaching certain categories of people capable of playing a major multiplier role.

42 000 personalised signed communications were sent by the Member of the European Commission in charge of employment and social affairs to Members of Parliament and politicians, to the heads of companies employing more than 200 people and to educationalists and training personnel.

8) **Promotional articles**

With the aim of promoting the use of the logo, small numbers of promotional articles were produced: flags, banners, stickers, pins, badges, pens, T-shirts, bags, etc.

This material was distributed to national liaison committees in the Member States, to the Commission's external offices and, on request, to various events and conferences.

Large numbers of schemes bought such items for use during their projects.

N.B.: It should be noted that budgetary constraints and other priorities made the Commission decide not to purchase advertising space or air time during the European Year. The invitation to tender for this kind of campaign indicated that the probable cost was approximately ECU [1 203 900], a very large sum compared to the available budget.

As noted above, the dissemination of messages and their multiplier effects were achieved thanks to the voluntary action of the organisations involved and the "pro bono" approach adopted by the media.

c) **Promotion of television programmes and videos**  
(Item II.A.2.b of the Annex to the Council Decision)

Implementation of the Council's decision to fund the promotion of television programmes and videos took due account not only of the importance of this medium and its specificity but also of budgetary constraints and the priorities imposed on producers by the nature of the audience.

Well aware of the long deadlines involved in producing and programming broadcasts, the Commission organised as early as 1991 two information sessions to bring together representatives of the major national television channels. As a result of these meetings,

25 suggested programmes meeting the objectives of the Year were submitted and 17 of these received partial funding:

Belgium	"Alle vijf", scientific magazine BRTN TV1 - Brussels "Produire, reproduire", in the weekly programme "Autant savoir" RTBF 1 Télévision - Brussels This film was awarded the "Zap d'or" prize as part of the 1992 journalism prize awarded by Crédit Communal in Belgium (Brussels)
Denmark	"Work hard, die young" TV 2 Danmark - Odense
Germany	"Gesundheitsmagazin Praxis" ZDF -Mainz "Lademan's family" ZDF - Mainz
Greece	"Health and Safety at the Workplace" Papadakis-Chronopoulos Film & TV Productions - Athens "La sécurité, la santé et les bonnes conditions de travail" IRIS FILM TV - Athens
Ireland	"Agricultural Safety and Children" RTE Radio Telefis Eirann - Dublin
Italy	"I grandi agglomerati urbani e la necessita di tutelare quanti svolgono la professione di vigile urbano" RAI - Radiotelevisione Italia - Rome
Netherlands	"Absenteeism: an effective approach" Stichting Teleac - Utrecht "In the dust" RVU Educatieve Omroep - Hilversum "Tomorrow is a better day" Desire Productions B.V. - Utrecht "You will see" Katholieke Radio Omroep - Hilversum
Portugal	"It's better to prevent" Primeira Imagem, Producoes Audiovisais LDS, Lisbon
United Kingdom	"Asthma - allergic to the Twentieth Century" BBC Enterprises - London "Thames Help Programme for the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work" Thames Television Plc, Middlesex

Further programmes, without any Community funding, were also produced by national or private channels in a number of Member States.

In the interests of cost-effectiveness, and given the quality of the productions submitted, the Commission decided to promote the best of these by making them available to all channels of the twelve Member States.

**d. Documentation and publication**  
(Item II.A.3.a of the Annex to the Council Decision)

In addition to the general awareness-enhancement material described above (Paragraph B.4.b), specific types of information were drawn up to disseminate information on Community legislative activities in the field of health and safety at work as widely as possible and with the aim of encouraging organisations to participate in the Year by supplying them with a set of basic documentation.

1 082 877 copies of information kits in the nine Community languages were produced:

- general information brochures: 112 000 copies;
- general information dossiers: 47 000 copies;
- an analytical report on the survey "Europeans and health and safety at work": 4 000 copies;
- a European file "Safety and health at work; a challenge for Europe": 220 000 copies;
- a leaflet about the Year or the Eurobarometer results; 62 650 copies;
- catalogue for the European video festival: 6 000 copies;
- information brochure for the general public: 442 727 copies;
- a report "Working with dangerous substances": 64 000 copies;
- a report "Occupational health and safety training": 64 000 copies;
- a report "Health and safety training in the fisheries sector": 32 500 copies;
- a report "GPs and occupational diseases": 28 000 copies;
- out soon, a report on "Safety and health in the construction sector" and a guide on safety and health at work for SMEs;
- Hygeia, a monthly information bulletin, produced in conjunction with the European Foundation for the Improvement of Working Conditions: 1 096 000 copies distributed, 14 issues.

A stock of these publications was made available to NLCs, the Commission's external offices and the European Parliament, as well as Euro Info Centres to serve SMEs in particular. Given the very worrying economic climate in Europe for SMEs, the Commission decided to avoid increasing their legal obligations and rather to draw up practical teaching materials which could allow company managers to check their practices complied with the firms' obligations under health and safety at work directives.

Two reports were compiled in conjunction with DG XXIII:

- safety and health at work: guide for SMEs
- self-audit handbook: safety and health at work, for use by SMEs

The Commission conducted direct mail shots to health and safety specialists, professional associations, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, etc.

The entire stock was distributed, particularly to those organising events and by direct mail to companies. It should be noted that the Commission continues to receive requests for some of these publications and that these have had to be reprinted.

**e. Press and public relations**  
(Item II.C.3 of the Annex to the Council Decision)

Commission staff have undertaken a number of public relations activities aimed primarily at the media with, where appropriate, the cooperation of the Spokesman's Group, the Commission's external offices and the NLCs.

Communication with the **mass media** took a number of forms.

Two press releases, containing general information about the Year, were distributed at Community level. They first described the campaign, its objectives, the reasons for it and its structure; the second concerned the interim report and stressed the positive response given to the Year by all the sectors involved. Media coverage for the opening conference was harnessed by a local press conference for national and invited foreign journalists and a parallel video conference for accredited journalists in Brussels. It was rounded off by a press release.

The audiovisual festival and the closing conference were each accompanied by a local press conference and a Community press release.

A central file was established covering the **trade press** and technical or occupational liaison titles. In addition to publications by trade unions and employer and occupational organisations, this file also covered publications specialising in safety, hygiene and health at the workplace, high-risk sectors and SMEs. It was drawn on as needed either to widen the distribution of press releases or for sending out specialist publications or dossiers about the Year as a backup to local mailings by NLCs.

The Commission suggested the establishment by the Federation of European Industrial Editors Associations (FEIEA) of a journalism competition designed to raise the awareness of company information bodies and to reward the best articles devoted to health and safety at work.

Once the competition had closed, bi-partite (FEIEA/EC) national juries selected 17 finalists from the 150 applications meeting the competition criteria.

The Grand Jury nominated one prize winner for EC Member States and for non-EC countries in category I of the competition for general articles on safety, hygiene and health protection at work. In category II, articles on specific topics, there were two joint winners from the EC and one from outside the EC.

The prizes were awarded at the Copenhagen closing conference (Paragraph B.2.b).

**B.5. OTHER AWARENESS-ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES**  
(Item II.C.1 of the Annex to the Council Decision)

**1. Partnership**

The Commission sought partners capable of carrying out schemes with their own resources.

The themes and objectives of the Year were presented to a hundred or so sectoral occupational organisations at a meeting in Brussels on 12 December 1991. Following on from this meeting, a number of sectoral trade union and employer organisations in both the public and private sector, as well as companies operating at a European level, have implemented schemes meeting the criteria of the campaign.

The major projects include those carried out by:

- European Organisation of the International Federation of the Public Services EUROFEDOP;
- Confédération Européenne des Cadres;
- Association européenne des Gaz de Petrole Liquéfiés A.E.G.P.L.;
- European Asphalt Pavement Association E.A.P.A.;
- European Disposables and Nonwovens Association EDANA;
- European Association for the Promotion of Hand Hygiene;
- European Cement Association CEMBUREAU;
- EC Committee of American Chambers of Commerce;
- Lyonnaise des Eaux Dumez;
- 3M Europe
- Smithkline Beecham Europe.

Whenever possible, the Commission sent a representative to meetings held by these organisations.

**3. Exhibitions and fairs**

A stand representing the European Year was a feature of a number of exhibitions and fairs, including the "Salon Européen de l'Etudiant" (Brussels), the "Foire Internationale de Luxembourg" and "Europa 92" at Nice (first Congress of European Community Associations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry).

**4. Philately**

The Commission informed the directors of the postal services of the twelve Member States of the Council decision concerning the "European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work", requesting these organisations to contribute to the Year by issuing a special stamp featuring the logo and by a postmark on the same theme.

Although the issues for 1992 had already been scheduled long before, three countries - Germany, Portugal and Greece - brought out a stamp devoted to the European Year. Six countries -

Denmark, Spain, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, Germany and Portugal - produced a postmark on the theme of the Year.

## C. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES IN THE MEMBER STATES

The National Liaison Committees were requested to present the following brief summaries of their activities. A more comprehensive report may in each case be found by referring to the document listed at the beginning of each report.

- C.1 *The Year in Belgium*
- C.2 *The Year in Denmark*
- C.3 *The Year in Germany*
- C.4 *The Year in Greece*
- C.5 *The Year in Spain*
- C.6 *The Year in France*
- C.7 *The Year in Ireland*
- C.8 *The Year in Italy*
- C.9 *The Year in Luxembourg*
- C.10 *The Year in the Netherlands*
- C.11 *The Year in Portugal*
- C.12 *The Year in the United Kingdom*



## **C.1. THE YEAR IN BELGIUM**

(Summary: a complete report may be found in document RNBEL)

NLC: Specially created tripartite committee: for a membership list, see Annex 2)

Person responsible: Mr Paul Silon

Organisation responsible for management:

MINISTERE DE L'EMPLOI ET DU TRAVAIL

rue Belliard 53

B - 1040 BRUSSELS

### **Some figures:**

9 schemes at national level co-funded by the Commission

Number of schemes without Commission funding: 57

Total number of schemes: 66

Total cost of projects: ECU 824 923

Community support: ECU 321 029

### **Summary**

The following objectives were laid down by the Belgian committee:

- the social upgrading of the prevention of industrial accidents and support for those involved in this work;
- the inclusion of health and safety considerations in public policy in all fields but particularly in education and training;
- better consultation and expertise, the two key aspects of Belgian prevention policy;
- in-depth reconsideration of possible changes to Belgian prevention policy and structures so as to take account of profound social change and the active role played by the European Commission in this field;
- giving priority to a prevention policy for working conditions and firms at European level, particularly after 1 January 1993 - and the dissemination of information about the work done in this field by the European Commission.

In order to optimise success in achieving these objectives, it was decided not to spread the limited financial resources over a large number of projects but rather to devote them to nine well designed campaigns at national level enjoying tripartite support. The greatest effort was concentrated on SMEs, the most vulnerable workers (young people, temporary staff, student workers ...), education and training.

At the same time, a number of carefully chosen sectoral projects received support, particularly in sectors with a large number of SMEs or where prevention had as yet received little attention.

Not only employers and employees but also experts on prevention and institutions were closely associated with these campaigns and projects.

The logo of the European Year was very widely distributed.

Particular efforts were made to interest the media and particularly the trade and company press in all the initiatives of the European Year. Excellent results were achieved.

## **C.2. THE YEAR IN DENMARK**

(Summary: a complete report may be found in document RNDNK)

NLC: Specially created tripartite committee: for a membership list, see Annex 2)  
Person responsible: Mr Erik Andersen

Organisation responsible for management

ARBEJDSTILSYNET

Landskronagade 33-35

DK 2100 KOBENHAVN 0

### **Some figures:**

42 schemes at national level co-funded by the Commission

Number of schemes without Commission funding: 68

Total number of schemes: 110

Total cost of projects: ECU 1 565 210

Community support: ECU 299 627

### **Summary**

Denmark used the European Year to intensify efforts to improve health and safety and prevent accidents both nationally and internationally. Cooperation in this field with EFTA and Eastern European countries is continually being improved.

The slogan "Arbejds miljø uden grænser" (Free trade in health and safety) was used to publicise the European Year.

The aim was to strengthen cooperation between those involved in health and safety - both sides of industry, the authorities and other interested parties. Also the media, schools and cultural events were used to raise awareness.

## **C.3 THE YEAR IN GERMANY**

(Summary: a complete report may be found in document RNDEU)

NLC: Specially created tripartite committee: for a membership list, see Annex 2)  
Person responsible: Dr Walter Eichendorf

Organisation responsible for management:  
HAUPTVERBAND DER GEWERBLICHEN BERUFSGENOSSENSCHAFTEN  
Postfach 2052  
D 53754 SANKT AUGUSTIN

**Some figures:**

64 schemes at national level co-funded by the Commission  
Number of schemes without Commission funding: 172  
Total number of schemes: 236

Total cost of projects: ECU 3 698 740

Community support: ECU 1 169 971

**Summary**

In the light of the unusual situation with regard to safety and health protection at work in Germany after the unification of the two German states, the national committee for this European Year emphasised the organisation of events in the new Länder. The European Year was accordingly inaugurated on 18 March 1992 in Erfurt. A conference was organised in Berlin in October 1992 in order to draw up an interim assessment. The closing ceremony was held on 22 January 1993 and provided a link between the theme of this Year and the world of tomorrow: the permanent exhibition on safety at work in Germany (DASA) was presented in Dortmund.

On 23/24 June 1993, the results of the Year were presented and an assessment drawn up during a conference held in Gera (Thuringia) which was based on three earlier seminars in May 1993. As part of "Safety and Health Protection at Work (A+A)" - the largest specialised conference in Europe and associated with an exhibition on the same subject - the European Commission has scheduled for 27 October 1993 a European conference to assess the success achieved by this Year. All national liaison committees of the Member States will be given an opportunity to present their results.

Given the short deadline for organising a European Year, and a total population in Germany of 80 million people, the German liaison committee was forced to adopt a two phase strategy. The first phase - during the course of the Year - saw target groups being approached, these being specialists in health protection at work, company experts, politicians and "personality intermediaries". During the second phase - which will begin in October 1993 with the AA conference in Düsseldorf - activities will be extended to cover all workers and all companies.

**C.4 THE YEAR IN GREECE**

(Summary: a complete report may be found in document RNGRC)

NLC: Specially created tripartite committee: for a membership list, see Annex 2)  
Person responsible: Mr Ioannis Iliopoulos

Organisation responsible for management:  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR  
40, Pireos Street

## GR - 10182 ATHENS

### **Some figures:**

74 schemes at national level co-funded by the Commission

Number of schemes without Commission funding: 210

Total number of schemes: 284

Total cost of projects: ECU 1 525 184

Community support: ECU 378 100

### **Summary**

The Greek National Liaison Committee was set up in January 1991. It consists of representatives of the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Social Security, the Greek General Confederation of Labour and the Confederation of Greek Employers.

As part of a very extensive campaign the National Liaison Committee contacted (personally or by mail) everybody likely to be interested in information about the Year's objectives, inviting them to cooperate and participate actively in the scheduled activities.

Activities organised in Greece during the European Year included those of the NLC and those of local committees established to heighten the awareness of employment related bodies and provinces.

#### **1. Schemes run by the Greek National Liaison Committee**

- a. Press conference held by Mrs Vasso Papandreou in November 1991;
- b. March 1992: conference organised by the National Liaison Committee to officially launch the European Year in Greece;
- c. May 1992: commemorative stamp issued;
- d. August 1992: printing of the logo of the European Year on tickets for the urban transport network of the city of Athens;
- e. display of posters in areas used by the public and printing of brochures and stickers;
- f. talks given by members of the National Liaison Committee, distribution of documentation during symposia, conferences and seminars organised by scientific and professional bodies.

#### **2. Local committees were established in 54 prefectures and undertook the following activities:**

- a. poster competitions;
- b. exhibitions;
- c. seminars aimed at local organisations;
- d. publication of brochures, etc.

The National Liaison Committee, with funding from the Commission of the European Communities, organised two events:

- November 1992: seminar on hygiene and safety attended by 200 technical inspectors and employers' and workers' representatives;
- January 1993: national conference on "Safety, hygiene and health protection at work in Greece - prospects in the European integration process".

## **C5. THE YEAR IN SPAIN**

(Summary: a complete report may be found in document RNESP)

NLC: Specially created tripartite committee: for a membership list, see Annex 2)

Person responsible:

Mr Alonso Arenal

Organisation responsible for management:

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE SEGURIDAD E HIGIENE EN EL TRABAJO

C/Torrelaguna, 73

E - 28027 MADRID

### **Some figures:**

39 schemes at national level co-funded by the Commission

Number of schemes without Commission funding: 79

Total number of schemes: 118

Total cost of projects: ECU 1 907 412

Community support: ECU 763 335

### **Summary**

The Council Decision of 25 July 1991, which proclaimed 1992 "European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work", was warmly welcomed in Spain.

Throughout this "Year", awareness-enhancement and information schemes were in operation.

The awareness campaign involved very widespread distribution of Community and national posters and publicity items, accompanied by a television publicity campaign funded by the National Institute for Safety and Health at Work (INSHT) and broadcast by all Spanish television channels during November and December 1992.

Information on specific aspects of the "European Year" particularly concerned the drafting and distributing of documents designed to give a better understanding of the various directives, the production of audiovisual material (particularly on fisheries and agriculture), the preparation of appropriate resources for SMEs, computerised noise control programmes and the organisation of a number of colloquia which not only popularised the objectives of the Year but also provided a forum to discuss them.

This was in addition to efforts made to improve vocational training structures and hence improve the training of technicians and other persons working in hazard prevention.

## **C.6. THE YEAR IN FRANCE**

(Summary: a complete report may be found in document RNFRA)

NLC: Specially created tripartite committee: for a membership list, see Annex 2)

Person responsible:

Miss Mireille Berthezene

Organisation responsible for management:

MINISTERE DU TRAVAIL, DE L'EMPLOI ET DE LA FORMATION PROFESSIONNELLE

Direction des Relations des Travail

Place Fontenoy, 1

F - 73 350 PARIS 07 SP

### **Some figures:**

64 schemes at national level co-funded by the Commission

Number of schemes without Commission funding: 160

Total number of schemes: 224

Total cost of projects: ECU 5 499 431

Community support: ECU 870 344

### **Summary**

The French Government and the French National Liaison Committee were determined to use the European Year to make people much more aware of health and safety at the workplace.

The French national liaison committee set itself two objectives:

- to make all those associated with employment more aware of health and safety at the workplace by means of a series of activities and events organised at national and local level;
- to raise awareness of Community activities in the field of health and safety.

Under the aegis of the national liaison committee, all institutions (ministries, social security institutions) and all those involved in prevention (employer and employee organisations and private-sector companies) played a great role in the success of the European Year.

The key event of the Year in France, the 1992 "International eForum on Occupational Health" (FITS), brought to Paris more than 1000 national and international prevention specialists, who discussed in particular the new situation created by the Community directives.

19 regional "European Year" forums were attended by more than 8000 individuals mostly involved at local level in health and safety at the workplace.

The European Year featured the organisation of a number of events, of which the most significant were: the Creusot Information Festival, the European Occupational Medicine Conference, the la Rochelle discussions and the Science and Safety Forum staged by the National Scientific Research Centre.

In addition, a number of training schemes were implemented for high-risk sectors. For example, Transports Gouverneur drew up a personalised training scheme for all of its staff in order to develop their "safety awareness". The national organisation for injured seamen undertook a training scheme for all those involved in prevention activities in the fisheries sector.

By involving all its constituent prevention organisations, by the diversity and quality of the initiatives it engendered, and by the exchanges of experience that it permitted, the European Year was a major step in making workers more aware of health and safety at the work place.

## **C7. THE YEAR IN IRELAND**

(Summary: a complete report may be found in document RNIRL)

NLC: Specially created tripartite committee: for a membership list, see Annex 2)

Person responsible:

Mr Leo Costello

Organisation responsible for management:

**HEALTH AND SAFETY AUTHORITY**

Hogan Place

IRL - DUBLIN 2

### **Some figures:**

24 schemes at national level co-funded by the Commission

Number of schemes without Commission funding: 17

Total number of schemes: 41

Total cost of projects: ECU 927 252

Community support: ECU 235 421

### **Summary**

The European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work was very enthusiastically welcomed in Ireland and we are pleased to be able to report great success in achieving its objectives, which were:

- making public opinion better aware of workplace health and safety issues;
- improving information about hazards and the measures needed for safety and health protection at the workplace;
- improving the distribution of information to the target audience.

A restricted National Liaison Committee was established and this organisation, representing a vast range of organisations and coordinated by the Health and Safety Authority, drew up a programme for the European Year which tackled subjects such as:

- clean air at work;
- safety at work;
- noise and vibration;
- well being;

and focused on the following high-risk sectors:

- agriculture and fisheries;
- the chemicals industry;
- construction;
- SMEs.

This programme specifically concerned workplace problems in Ireland. Events were scheduled in such a way that each month of the European Year was devoted to a particular theme.

A whole range of activities (comprising promotion/awareness-enhancement campaigns, specially targeted schemes and research and surveys) were carried out with funding from the European Commission. Some were designed to produce an immediate impact and others to continue to yield results well beyond the European Year.

## **C8. THE YEAR IN ITALY**

(Summary: a complete report may be found in document RNITA)

NLC: Specially created tripartite committee: for a membership list, see Annex 2)

Person responsible:

Dr Giovanna Rocca-Ercoli

Organisation responsible for management:

MINISTERO DEL LAVORO E DELLA PREVIDENZA SOCIALE

6, via Flavia

I - 00167 ROME

### **Some figures:**

42 schemes at national level co-funded by the Commission

Number of schemes without Commission funding: 122

Total number of schemes: 164

Total cost of projects: ECU 3 451 231

Community support: ECU 1 155 703

### **Summary**

Great interest was aroused by the awareness-enhancement campaign launched by the EC in proclaiming 1992 the "European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work".

Information and training initiatives in the field of safety were primarily designed to make the general public, as well as those categories of people more directly concerned, more aware of safety issues.

The initial stimulus to these activities was undoubtedly reinforced by the national opening conference, during which the social partners conducted an extensive discussion of safety problems in the light of new obligations under Community regulations.



Some of Italy's largest companies took a lead in these activities, such as Alitalia, Italian National Railways, Enel and SIP. Besides making the European campaign known to the public at large by displaying EC posters in airports, stations and their premises used by the public, they also launched company campaigns focusing particularly on staff training.

To encourage active participation by staff, Alitalia organised a safety slogan competition, awarding prizes to the five best slogans.

Secondary and university education also responded favourably by organising seminars, congresses and the presentation of research projects.

Among the media, the trade press responded positively to the campaign but this could not be said of the national newspapers and independent television. By contrast, the state-run television rather tardily agreed to cooperate and it is hoped this will continue. In particular, the RAI 2 channel devoted its "Diogenes" daily programme on 11 and 12 January to safety at the workplace.

A welcome government initiative, also involving employers' and employees' representatives, drew up specific safety training programmes for each sector so as to form a permanent feature of vocational training courses.

#### **C.9. THE YEAR IN LUXEMBOURG**

(Summary: a complete report may be found in document RNLUX)

NLC: Specially created tripartite committee: for a membership list, see Annex 2)

Person responsible: Mr Paul Weber

Organisation responsible for management:

INSPECTION DU TRAVAIL ET DES MINES

rue Zithe, 26

L - 2010 LUXEMBOURG

#### **Some figures:**

5 schemes at national level co-funded by the Commission

Number of schemes without Commission funding: 9

Total number of schemes: 14

Total cost of projects: ECU 481 430

Community support: ECU 206 885

#### **Summary**

For the Grand-Duchy, the European Year was an occasion to take stock of current legislation and of the implications of Community legislation.

At the present time, health and safety issues are covered by more than 300 pieces of legislation.

Two bills have been put before the Chamber of Deputies, one transposing Directive 89/391/EEC into Luxembourg law, the other with particular reference to health at the workplace.

To ensure that existing legislation is applied in accordance with the provisions of the Single Market, the activities of the Labour and Mines Inspectorate also include training a hundred Customs officers to conduct health and safety monitoring at the workplace. This training will be carried out as an integrated tripartite programme.

One of Luxembourg's priorities was to intensify links between the social partners. At the same time, awareness-enhancement, training and information activities fully lived up to expectations, even in sectors particularly difficult to motivate.

### **C.10. THE YEAR IN THE NETHERLANDS**

(Summary: a complete report may be found in document RNNLD)

NLC: Specially created tripartite committee: for a membership list, see Annex 2)  
Person responsible: Mr D.J. Olivier

Organisation responsible for management:  
DIRECTORAAT-GENERAL VAN DE ARBEID  
Postbus 90804  
NL - 2509 LV THE HAGUE

#### **Some figures:**

27 schemes at national level co-funded by the Commission  
Number of schemes without Commission funding: 29  
Total number of schemes: 56

Total cost of projects: ECU 1 871 083

Community support: ECU 363 833

#### **Summary**

Working conditions policy in the Netherlands, as defined in the relevant legislation, is essentially a matter of the respective obligations of employers and workers. The underlying philosophy is to give maximum possible autonomy to the social partners. After all, these are the parties most directly concerned and best able to take the initiative. It is also very much in their interest for intermediary bodies to play an active role in this field. The activities called for under the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work are thus entirely in agreement with the principle safeguarded by Dutch legislation. Against this background, the National Liaison Office concentrated on encouraging companies and intermediary organisations to launch personal initiatives.

The objectives of the European Year are part of a much broader canvas. The themes it tackles reflect national policy choices. Activities programmed during the European Year are in addition to a number undertaken by the government, leading to links between a range of schemes. This synergy takes the following form:

- the Dutch government's policy on working conditions is linked to policy aimed at reducing absenteeism for reasons of illness or incapacity to work;
- the working conditions policy of the Netherlands accords priority to certain sectors also regarded as a priority by the European Year;
- themes regarded as policy priorities by the Dutch government correspond to the priority themes identified by the Commission of the European Communities, for example physical constraints, noise and vibrations, psychological tension/wellbeing/stress.

Over the next few years, particular attention will have to be paid to the evaluation and implementation of directives. To this end, all parties concerned will have to receive effective and unambiguous information: the dissemination of information during the Year is a first significant step towards this. SMEs were, however, very late in receiving information. In addition to good information, SMEs will also have to receive practical assistance. One such field is their new obligations in terms of risk identification and assessment. Here, sectoral organisations can play an important role at national level.

#### **C.11. THE YEAR IN PORTUGAL**

(Summary: a complete report may be found in document RNPRT)

NLC: Specially created tripartite committee: for a membership list, see Annex 2)  
 Person responsible: Mrs Pinto Marvao

Organisation responsible for management:

**DIRECCAO-GERAL DE HIGIENE & SEGURANCA DO TRABALHO**  
 Avenida da República, 84 - 5°  
P - 1600 LISBON

#### **Some figures:**

16 schemes at national level co-funded by the Commission

Number of schemes without Commission funding: 750

Total number of schemes: 766

Total cost of projects: ECU 873 162

Community support: ECU 392 368

#### **Summary**

For the following reasons, the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work came at just the right time for Portugal:

- the social dimension of the Single Market needed extension;
- priority was being given to a knowledge of the legislation and of Community standards for safety, hygiene and health protection at work, as well as technical and organisational aspects of the prevention of occupational hazards;

- agreements achieved through employer/employee discussion were being strengthened;
- there was a need to reduce the number of accidents and diseases.

To meet these objectives, the national programme brought together a very wide range of initiatives, reflecting the dominance of the themes and sectors regarded as priorities by the European Community.

In examining the projects conducted during the European Year, attention should be drawn to the way in which they were presented and carried out, the organisational skills demonstrated by the private sector, the increase in awareness and motivation of employers, technicians and workers in terms of safety, hygiene and health protection at work, not to mention their consensual approach to these issues and their recognition of the importance of the contribution made by the Community to improving these conditions, the shortage of technical experts and the difficulties encountered by SMEs in responding quickly and correctly to their obligations under Community legislation.

As far as implementation proposals are concerned, a widespread consensus is emerging on the urgent need to implement the agreement on safety, hygiene and health protection at work negotiated between the government and the social partners, employing the measures it sets out for the various fields.

The European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work has been extremely successful and the momentum achieved has made it possible to emphasise certain approaches, including a "prevention week" to be conducted in each district.

## **C.12. THE YEAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

(Summary: a complete report may be found in document RNGBR)

NLC: Specially created tripartite committee: for a membership list, see Annex 2)  
 Person responsible: Ms Felicity Harte

Organisation responsible for management:

**HEALTH & SAFETY EXECUTIVE**

Baynards House

Chepstow Place

UK - LONDON W2 4TF

### **Some figures:**

102 schemes at national level co-funded by the Commission

Number of schemes without Commission funding: 419

Total number of schemes: 521

Total cost of projects: ECU 4 241 853

Community support: ECU 977 354

### **Summary**

**Priorities:**

To raise awareness, provide information and stimulate action to improve health and safety standards at the workplace - in particular among small firms.

**Publicity:**

The Year was launched throughout the country with speeches and press conferences. During the Year publicity was good at local level and in the technical and trade press.

**Events:**

EC co-funded activities included seminars, training materials, award schemes and road shows. Over 80% were targeted at small firms and 60% at young trainees. The national conference covered the enforcement of EC health and safety legislation. Other initiatives included two occupational health conferences; a prize in the National Training Awards; a conference and exhibition on the Year's four themes; campaigns on agriculture, construction, noise, occupational health, small businesses and the new directives.

**Health and Safety Week (23 - 27 November 1992):** 100 000 information packs were sent to firms, and 1 500 organisations participated. Events took place every day throughout the country.

**Evaluation:**

The volume, variety and range of activities show that there was enthusiasm for the Year. In many cases employees as well as safety specialists participated.

## **D. OTHER ACTIVITIES**

*D.1 European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)*

*D.2 Employers' organisations*

*D.3 European Free Trade Association (EFTA)*

### **D.1 European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)**

During the European Year, ETUC prepared a number of projects to train and inform workers' representatives.

These included organising and conducting seminars and colloquia to make the trade-union movement more aware of the importance of Community action, to stress prevention and to identify and disseminate examples of good practice so as to provide a common reference framework for trade union initiatives.

These events were organised around important safety, hygiene and health issues such as health and safety management, occupationally-induced cancers, air purity and wellbeing at work.

Other schemes tackled a European definition of risk evaluation, the role of workers and their representatives in the risk evaluation process and accident and disease prevention at the workplace in the EFTA and EC countries.

ETUC's contribution to the European Year included:

- Preparation and organisation of a conference on prevention at the workplace in the EC and EFTA countries.  
21 - 22 December 1992, Luxembourg
- Organising and staging two seminars:
  - Air purity - 15-17 October 1992, Thessaloniki;
  - Wellbeing at the workplace - 15 and 16 November 1992, Amsterdam.
- Organising and holding two seminars on safety and health at the workplace:  
Health and safety management - 22 and 23 June 1992, Copenhagen;  
Occupationally-induced cancers - 18 and 19 January 1993, Hattingen.
- Preparation and production of a film on preventing occupational diseases designed to train and inform company safety managers.  
1992 - France
- European seminar on risk evaluation in the workplace aimed at workers and their representatives.  
8 and 11 September 1993, Rome
- Project covering training activities for workers' representatives: a survey followed by the drafting of a discussion document on the legal framework, numerical data and training methods.

## **D.2 Employers' organisations**

Employers' organisations generally took advantage of the opportunity provided by the European Year to improve their members' awareness and knowledge of Community initiatives.

Prime attention went to reinforcing knowledge of European standards already adopted, by way of improved information systems, education and training programmes and activities aimed especially at SMEs.

Employers played their part in organising or helping to organise the many events mentioned in this report. They took part in the work of the NLCs, in numerous meetings, exhibitions and competitions intended to highlight the themes of the Year and the importance of good health and safety practices at the workplace.

The European Video Film Festival successfully demonstrated the important contribution made by employers in the intensive use of videos for training and information purposes, which they plan to continue and expand in the future.

## **D.3 European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**

The EFTA countries are very aware of problems associated with the working environment, particularly since the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement came into force.

As part of the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, EFTA formed a group of experts which has met several times to exchange information and to organise, using its own funding, activities to be shared by the seven member countries. These include the conference "Workplace problems - the year 2000" held in Oslo. Other activities were carried out in the individual countries.

The following is a list of activities conducted in the various EFTA countries.

- In **Austria**, activities concentrated on the following topics:
  - \* health education and hazard prevention training in schools;
  - \* the prevention of commuting accidents;
  - \* informing the employers and workers in SMEs about new national and Community regulations with regard to health and safety at work;
  - \* a campaign to make people aware of health issues and of safety measures currently adopted.
  
- The major topic tackled in **Finland** was the working environment, particularly with regard to preparations for the implementation of EEA regulations. A number of national and international seminars examined topics such as the ageing of the active population and its consequences, health monitoring and safety at the workplace.
  
- In **Iceland**, priority was given to:

- \* strengthening of internal safety systems of companies and institutions;
- \* establishment of health services at the workplace, in cooperation with health centres (initially, this concentrated on protecting workers' hearing);
- \* improving the statistical coverage of industrial accidents and occupational diseases in cooperation with the health services.

The themes of the Year were often discussed at events organised by trade unions and by a number of professional associations.

- In addition to two conferences held in autumn 1992, Norway focused its activities on:
  - \* the hazards of using chemicals;
  - \* working conditions in the public service (including health services);
  - \* working conditions and health problems in the hotel and catering trade.
- The European Year saw a number of activities take place in Sweden; the main one was a conference on "The status of working women", organised by the Swedish National Liaison Committee on 24 May 1993.
- The Swiss Federal Government and the Federal Coordination Committee allocated SFR 520 000 and SFR 600 000 respectively to activities forming part of the European Year. Following a similar procedure to that adopted in the Community countries, this funding was divided among project promoters by a tripartite national liaison committee. 16 projects received co-funding and many others took place without grants. Worthy of mention are a project to prevent back complaints in the construction and timber industries, and an information campaign entitled "Safety in all economic sectors", where six conferences on health and hygiene at work were supplemented by information booklets on these subjects.



## **E. THE BUDGET**

- E.1 Allocation of grants*
- E.2 Basis of grant allocation*
- E.3 Summary table*

With the support of the European Parliament, an allocation of ECU 7.7 million was made under item B3-4320 of the European Communities budget for 1992, together with ECU 4.3 million for 1993, a total of ECU 12 million.

### **E.1 Allocation of grants**

Articles 4 and 5 of the Decision of 25 July 1991 set out the way in which funding was to be allocated, stating that at least 50% of available funding must be spent on schemes as defined in part B of the Annex to the Council Decision. These are described in paragraph C of this document.

Funding was allocated as follows:

- Grant applications were submitted to the tripartite National Liaison Committee (NLC - see B.1.c). NLCs received more than 1 961 applications.
- The NLCs passed all grant applications on to the Commission after assigning them to one of three categories:
  - a) applications approved by the NLC and for which the NLC could make funding available;
  - b) applications refused by the NLC for budgetary reasons but which complied with the Year's objectives;
  - c) cases refused because they did not comply with the Year's objectives.
- The Commission submitted all applications to the Advisory Steering Committee (see B.1.b) for an opinion.
- The ASC issued an opinion on every project submitted to the Commission.
- In allocating grants, the Commission closely followed the opinion expressed by the ASC.

### **E.2 Basis of grant allocation**

The method used to determine individual national allocations was suggested by the Commission and approved by the Advisory Steering Committee for the Year.

Each country was allocated a percentage of the total amount as follows:

- a basic allocation of 2.78%;
- an additional amount depending on the size of the active population, double weighting being given jobs in high-risk sectors (agriculture, fisheries, construction) and in SMEs.

This calculation yielded the following percentages:

Belgium	4.5
Denmark	4.2
Germany	16.4
Spain	10.7
France	12.2
Greece	5.3
Ireland	3.3
Italy	16.2
Luxembourg	2.9
Netherlands	5.1
Portugal	5.5
United Kingdom	13.7

### **E.3 Summary table**

**E.3 - Consolidated budgetary report for 1992 and 1993**  
**provisional data**  
**Item B3-4320 European Year**  
**COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS**

Council Decision Annex reference	Part A: actions to be financed entirely from the Community budget							Part B: Actions cofinanced from the Community budget	OVERALL TOTAL	
	II.A.1.a. II.A.1.b II.A.2.a	II.A.1.c	II.A.2.b	II.A.3.a	II.A.3.b	Total	Part A		Amounts	%
Council Decision references	Conferences Festival	National conferences	TV, video	Brochures (estimates)	Campaign, Logo (estimates)			Part B Grants		
Member State	Summary title									
B		65 000	116 954	38 741	58 438	279 133	321 029	600 161	5.0	
DK	189 000	65 000	45 720	36 158	54 542	390 421	299 627	690 047	5.8	
D	72 700	56 300	174 716	141 189	212 974	657 879	1 169 971	1 827 850	15.2	
E		65 000	28 585	92 117	138 952	324 655	763 335	1 087 990	9.1	
F		66 175	51 362	105 031	158 432	381 000	870 344	1 251 345	10.4	
G	216 478	65 000	102 705	45 628	68 827	498 638	378 100	876 739	7.3	
IRL		65 000	29 983	28 410	42 854	166 248	235 421	401 669	3.3	
I		65 000	109 852	139 467	210 377	524 697	1 155 703	1 680 400	14.0	
L		65 000	7 747	24 966	37 660	135 374	206 885	342 259	2.9	
NL		65 000	101 625	43 906	66 230	276 761	363 833	640 593	5.3	
P	152 328	65 000	55 136	47 350	71 424	391 239	392 368	783 607	6.5	
UK		65 000	184 649	117 945	177 911	545 504	977 334	1 522 859	12.7	
TOTAL FOR MEMBER STATES GENERAL EXPENDITURE	630 506	772 475	1 009 036	860 910	1 298 621	4 571 547	7 133 971	11 705 518	97.5	
TOTAL Total%	630 506 5.3	772 475 6.4	1 009 035 8.4	978 307 8.2	1 475 706 12.3	4 866 029 40.6	7 133 971 59.4	12 000 000 100.0	100.0	

### *Explanatory notes*

- a) The amounts listed in this table are provisional since the budgetary allocations have not yet been fully committed. Where the figures are estimates, this is shown in the following notes.
- b) Some Part A schemes, particularly national conferences and grants to television channels, were not entirely funded from the Community budget: other sources were drawn on.
- c) The column "Part B grants" shows the total budget allocation to each Member State, based on objective criteria such as the active population, employment in high-risk sectors and in SMEs. These criteria were adopted by the Advisory Steering Committee for the Year (see § E.2). These are commitment appropriations and not the final payment of the resulting grants. Indeed, some payments are still being carried out and there may be some differences between these and the appropriation credits.
- d) The column "conferences, festival" includes the opening and closing conferences in Lisbon and Copenhagen respectively (§ B.2.a and B.2.b), the evaluation conference in Düsseldorf (§ B.2.c) and the Thessaloniki Film Festival (§ B.2.d).
- e) The column "national conferences" concerns the funding made available to national liaison committees to organise the conferences, colloquia and seminars called for under part A of the Council Decision (§ B.2.c). In most cases, these sums do not cover all expenditure on the event.
- f) The heading "TV and video" refers to grants to national channels and other schemes to promote video cassettes (distribution of the catalogue of training films, film translation, the project for an interchange of national films) (§.4.c). The funding for these schemes was split among Member States on the basis of the formula referred to above (§ E.2).
- g) Production of brochures and booklets covers the drafting, production and distribution of the various publications for the Year (§ B.4.d). Division between Member States was based on the formula referred to above.
- h) The information campaign and logo promotion involved the design, production and distribution of publicity material (posters, notices, brochures, miscellaneous promotional items ...) (§ B.4.b) and the public relations and opinion survey activities carried out during the Year (§ B.4.e). The division between the Member States was based on the above formula.
- i) The "general expenditure" heading covers expenditure on information activities carried out by the Commission itself.

## F. CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

1. In its Decision of 25 July 1991 on an action programme for the European Year, the Council
  - noted that 1992 would see the completion of the third action programme concerning safety, hygiene and health at work, and that stock should be taken of the programme, its coherence demonstrated and emphasis placed on the commitment of employers and workers to health and safety;
  - acknowledged the predominant role of heightening public awareness and of information, increased awareness and training for employers and workers for the success of the third action programme;
  - noted the need to improve knowledge of the content and implications of Community legislation in the field.

It set out as the objective of the Year "to conduct a number of activities designed to promote and enhance the value of the substantial body of Community measures in the field of safety, hygiene and health at work".

2. The current document illustrates the importance of the results of the Year, which has now drawn to a close. Detailed analysis shows that the Community funding invested in projects in the Member States generated an extra ECU 20 million in funding from the project organisers, clear evidence of the keen interest shown in the themes of the Year. Almost 60% of the projects concerned SMEs. In addition over 2 000 projects were organised without Community funding.

The impact of the projects and of the Commission's own activities was assessed in a Eurobarometer survey, which showed that almost one in five people in Europe, i.e. some 50 million people aged over 15, were affected by the various measures, and that almost two-thirds of all workers in Europe agreed with the idea that the European Community should take all the necessary measures to guarantee health, safety and hygiene at work.

3. There are three basic reasons which could explain why workers and employers reacted so positively to the Year.

First, workers and employers feel a genuine and urgent need for Community information on health and safety at work. This was already clear from the results of the Eurobarometer survey held in March 1991. Both workers and employers feel that the Community has an important role to play in this field, with top priority going to the Community's measures to stimulate research and disseminate information, according to the Eurobarometer survey in spring 1993.

The second reason was the widespread and immediate involvement of the trade unions and employers' organisations in the information campaign, particularly through the Advisory Committee. Thanks to the information channels opened to these organisations, the messages of the awareness campaign reached a very wide audience.

The third reason was the highly-motivated involvement of most of the National Liaison Committees, which decided on national policy and priorities as part of the process of subsidiarity,.

4. Throughout the work on implementing the Council Decision the Commission sought to ensure that the most cost-effective use of funding was combined with the application of the concept of subsidiarity. Great use was made of the tripartite structures set up at national level, and although the Commission was there to guarantee consistency, it was the Member States which developed measures most closely in line with what their employers and workers wanted, each keeping its national identity and its own responsibility. As concrete proof of this decentralised approach, almost two-thirds of the funding allocated for the Year went on national measures, with a clear emphasis on projects at company level, particularly among SMEs.

The success of the operation is confirmed by the fact that a number of countries decided at the end of the Year to keep these structures in place, to act as a relay for Community information in the field and as a logistical centre for future activities.

5. On another level, because of its enormous impact on workers and employers in particular, the Year opened up broad-based discussions on future Community measures in the field of health and safety at work. In this way the Year has been a pivot between the results of past programmes and the definition of future policy.

6. The Commission is already planning to extend some of the information measures which were started during the European Year. More needs to be done to meet the expectations voiced during the Year - as confirmed by the results of the Eurobarometer survey in spring 1993 - and thus to help, in general terms, to raise the profile of the Community's activities, as the Institutions are keen to do, and to establish sectoral information programmes as part of a general information policy, as the Commission is keen to do. Furthermore, given that information is acknowledged to play a vital part of information in preventing occupational accidents and illnesses, we now need to get the best return possible from the substantial investments made during the Year, both by the Community and by the Member States, firms, employers and workers.

7. On the basis of discussions during the Year and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, the Commission is currently preparing a document defining a general framework for the activities of the Commission of the European Communities in the health and safety field between now and the year 2000. The objectives are as follows:

- ensuring that the Member States transpose the Community directives correctly and take the necessary measures for the appropriate application of secondary legislation;
- promoting the Community's work on health and safety, including legislation, in non-Community countries;
- continuing to promote health and safety at work.

8. The Commission's activities in the field of information should involve
- regular information campaigns in the Member States to encourage the proper application of Community Directives; promote safety rules in high-risk sectors; promote audio-visual products for training and information on health and safety; increase awareness among SMEs, which proved to be a huge target group and very difficult to reach; try to find the best ways of reaching young people in training or in their first job;
  - general awareness campaigns coordinated at Community level, which could take the form of an annual occupational health and safety day or week.

The Commission is also planning to step up the exchange of information between Member States through the Community information exchange system, which is proving increasingly successful.

9. In conclusion, a large section of the general public and the working population has been made aware of the Community's work in the field of safety and health protection for workers thanks to the European Year, which showed that the public authorities, trade unions and employers could be mobilised to take effective action on predetermined themes. The projects carried out at company level as part of the Year helped to improve working conditions and could be used as models for other activities or extended in scope.
- Contacts were established and communication networks set up during the Year, and some of these are to be carried on to relay information between the Community and firms, employers and workers.
- A large number of non-Community countries have shown a keen interest in the Community's activities in this field.
- There is therefore good reason for considering that the Year was an investment which not only produced a fundamental increase in awareness among a large section of Europe's workforce about problems of health and safety at work, but also launched a mobilising force which looks set to keep on rolling in most Member States, and which the Commission intends to support.

**Annex I**  
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Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening (Employers)

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**A Committee which was formed on the 21st of January 1991 in the Ministry of Labour with the following members**

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John KRAPSITIS

Directorate of Working Conditions substitute

Nick STAMATAKIS

Director, Head of the Centre of Hygiene and Safety of Workers (KYAE)

Alexandros VOULGARIS

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**Director General**  
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**Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents**  
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**Chief Executive**  
**The Institution of Occupational Safety and**  
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**Chairman**  
**Health and Safety Agency for Northern**  
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**Brunswick Public Relations - (employers)**  
**Former Director General**  
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