



European Parliament
Press Release

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COMMUNITY SAFETY WEEK IN AGRICULTURE

The European Commission is co-operating with the Member States, farmers and farm workers' organisations in organising the Community's Farm Safety Week on 15 - 22 September. The main theme will be "Safe Farming in Europe". This co-ordination at Community level aims to reinforce measures already taken by individual Member States to ensure the physical safety and health of persons working in agriculture.

For the last three years agricultural employers and farm workers have been conducting a joint study of the problems affecting the health and safety of persons working in agriculture, in a committee set up by the Commission. This study has revealed that many accidents or cases of illness are caused mainly by rapid mechanisation on farms and the increasingly widespread use of pesticides and insecticides.

For example :

- in 1969 in Italy, 349 persons were killed when using agricultural tractors,
- in 1970 in Germany, there were 22,030 accidents in the agricultural sector of which 1,379 were fatal,
- in 1972 in Great Britain, there were 6,212 accidents in the same sector of which 120 were fatal.

Regulations and directives have been adopted or are being studied by the Council for the improvement of the safety of agricultural machinery, but it is essential for the users and those around them (12 million people are involved) to be made aware of the dangers.

This year's Safety Week will take place simultaneously in all Member States, each of which is planning its own programme adapted to national requirements.

The Commission has sent to the Council a draft resolution fully supporting the Community Safety Week.

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