

TALSMANDENS GRUPPE  
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**PRESSE-MEDDELELSE  
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**INFORMATION A LA PRESSE  
INFORMAZIONE ALLA STAMPA  
MEDEDELING AAN DE PERS**

Brussels, 24 September 1979.

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES (OSHA and NIOSH) IN THE FIELD  
OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

Following the Agreement signed in June 1979<sup>1</sup> between the Commission of the European Communities and the Government of the United States of America (OSHA<sup>2</sup> and NIOSH<sup>3</sup>) in the field of Occupational Safety and Health, the first meeting took place in Luxembourg on 17 September 1979.

During this meeting the twelve areas identified as of common interest were reviewed. The discussion centered in particular on a number of toxic agents, (asbestos and arsenic), on the occupational cancer policies currently developed in the U.S.A. and in the European Communities and on the problem of aetiology of accidents. It was agreed to intensify the exchange of data and information in these fields.

The participation of OSHA and NIOSH in the CEC-ILO International Workshop on Occupational Safety and Health Hazard Alert Systems to be held in Luxembourg in September 1979 was confirmed.

The organization of a joint international workshop on the "Assessment of toxic agents at the workplace : ambient monitoring and use of biological indicators" was agreed to be held in Luxembourg in the second semester of 1980.

The Commission extended an invitation to OSHA and NIOSH to participate as observers in the "Asbestosis and Mesothelícus Panels" and in particular to attend the Clinical Pathological Seminar on non malignant affects of fibrous particulates on the respiratory system to be held in November 1979 at Créteil, France.

The following topics are being retained as requiring an in-depth discussion at the next meeting scheduled for June 1980 in Washington : cancer policy, toxicological testing, noise, information and education, and occupational hazard surveys.

<sup>1</sup> see IP (79) 132

<sup>2</sup> OSHA = Occupational Safety and Health Administration

<sup>3</sup> NIOSH = National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.