

# Occupational Health and Safety:

*Improving Working Conditions in Europe*



**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

The Silken Berlaymont Hotel  
Brussels



# Occupational Health and Safety: Improving Working Conditions in Europe

## Overview

Accidents at work are a burden for both workers and employers, constituting a major cost for European economies and affecting society as a whole. The most recent Eurostat statistics show that 6.9 million people aged between 15 and 64 in the EU-27 had an accident at work in the 12 months prior to the survey; of these, 72.3% resulted in sick leave of at least one day and 21.7% in sick leave of at least one month. Furthermore, 8.6% of workers in the EU-27 experienced a work-related health problem in the 12 months prior to the survey, with musculoskeletal diseases being the most often reported work-related problem (59%), followed by mental health problems at 13.7%.

As data varies considerably across Europe, the Commission, together with the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), has called for improved harmonisation of workers' health and safety standards. Despite relevant progress being made in preventing work-related problems, there is still plenty of room for improvement: risk assessment and monitoring procedures should be established in the greater context of an improved, cross-border safety management system.

This international symposium will provide an invaluable opportunity to discuss how the number of occupational accidents can be reduced, especially in high risk industrial work environments, and consider an effective cross-border strategy to prevent stress, depression and other work-related illnesses. The symposium will allow delegates to examine and assess the top-tier EU-funded projects tackling occupational safety and health issues in Europe and the role of trade unions in combating poor work conditions and preventing occupational hazards.

“**Our ‘Working together for risk prevention’ campaign is based on the idea that OSH is not just the responsibility of some people in the workplace, but that we create the safest working conditions when we are all involved. Nothing better illustrates this than businesses working with their supply chains, to help keep workers safe.**”

Director, EU-OSHA (January 2013)

“**No business owner wants to experience a bad workplace accident, not least because of the consequences for the individual concerned. But there are also the potentially serious financial consequences in the form of compensation payments, higher insurance premiums and increased absenteeism. In short, it makes sound business sense to ensure workers are protected.**”

CEO, Health and Safety Authority (November 2012)

## Venue and Accommodation

**The Silken Berlaymont Hotel,  
11-19, Boulevard Charlemagne  
1000 Brussels - Belgium**

In the heart of the European district you will find the Silken Berlaymont Brussels. It offers warm hospitality and an exclusive setting, combining fine architecture with comfort and elegance.



## Why Attend?

- ✓ **Gain an insight into EU institutions' commitments to improving health and safety conditions in the workplace**
- ✓ **Consider how to improve risk assessment and accident prevention in the workplace**
- ✓ **Exchange best practices in reducing occupational diseases and accidents**

## Who Should Attend?

- Mental Health Practitioners
- HR Professionals
- Occupational Health Professionals
- Organisational Development Professionals
- Employment Agencies
- National and Local Administrations
- NGOs
- Safety and Health at Work Agencies
- Health and Safety Councils
- Health and Safety Managers
- Training Managers
- Recruitment Professionals
- Psychosocial Research Centres
- Psychiatric Organisations
- Institutes of Psychiatry and Neurology
- Stress Related Organisations
- Ministries of Health
- Mental Health Commissions
- Mental Health Centres
- Equal Opportunities Officers
- Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Practitioners
- Disability Practitioners
- Employee Relations Advisers
- Legal Advisers
- Campaigning Organisations
- Regulatory Bodies
- Trade Union Representatives
- Social Workers and Social Services Officers
- Welfare Rights Organisations
- Academics, Researchers and Analysts

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## Programme

09:15	Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:00	Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
10:10	<b>Strengthening the Prevention of Occupational Accidents</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limiting Occupational Hazards - Developing and Improving Communication, Inspection and Enforcement Activities</li><li>• Improving Employer and Employee Education to Reduce the Risk of Accidents in the Workplace</li><li>• Ensuring Better Protection of Vulnerable Workers</li><li>• When Prevention is Not Enough - Focusing on Return-to-Work and Rehabilitation Strategies</li><li>• Recommendations for Future Policy Developments</li></ul>
10:40	<b>First Round of Discussions</b>
11:10	Morning Coffee Break
11:30	<b>Improving Working Conditions - Reducing Sickness in the Workplace</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respiratory Risks - Strategies for Reducing Asbestos Exposure and Dust-Induced Lung Diseases</li><li>• High-Risk Industrial Sectors - Ensuring Maximum Cross-Border Protection of Workers</li><li>• Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders</li><li>• Health Risks and Injuries Related to Vibration Exposure</li><li>• Impact of Portable Computing and Communication Devices on the Health of Workers</li></ul>
12:00	<b>Second Round of Discussions</b>
12:30	Networking Lunch
13:30	<b>The Impact of Work-Related Stress on EU Workers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evidence-Based Projects to Prevent Stress and Depression in the Workplace</li><li>• Mental Illness from an HR Perspective – Training Employers to Tackle Mental Health Problems</li><li>• Raising Awareness of, and Investing in, Suicide Prevention Education</li><li>• Recommendations</li></ul>
14:00	<b>Third Round of Discussions</b>
14:40	Afternoon Coffee Break
15:00	<b>Current EU Policy Measures to Tackle Occupational Diseases and Accidents at Work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussing the Effectiveness of the OSH Framework Directive</li><li>• A Reality Check on Member States' Implementation Strategies</li><li>• Linking OSH with Economic Performances</li><li>• OSH Strategies for SMEs</li><li>• Sharing Best Practice - Top-Tier EU-Funded Projects Tackling OSH</li><li>• Discussing Labour Inspectorate Systems Harmonisation</li><li>• The Role of Trade Unions in Combating Poor Risk Prevention and Management</li></ul>
15:30	<b>Fourth Round of Discussions</b>
16:00	Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
16:10	Networking Reception
16:40	Close

## Event Details

**Date:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013  
**Time:** 10:00am – 4:40pm  
**Venue:** The Silken Berlaymont Hotel, Brussels



## Speakers Include

- ✓ **Maria Neira**, Director, Public Health and Environment Department, World Health Organisation (invited)
- ✓ **Paul Tousseyn**, Director General, Department of Monitoring of Well-Being at the Workplace, Federal Public Service for Employment, Work and Social Concertation, Belgium (confirmed)
- ✓ **Patrice Manu Donati**, Doctor, Vibration Laboratory, Institut National de Recherche et de Sécurité, France (invited)
- ✓ **Simon Lawton-Smith**, Head of Policy, Mental Health Foundation (confirmed)
- ✓ **Seiji Machida**, Director, Safety & Health at Work Department, International Labour Organization (confirmed)
- ✓ **Laurent Vogel**, Director, Working Conditions, Health and Safety Department, European Trade Union Institute (invited)
- ✓ **Eusebio Rial Gonzales**, Head of Unit, Prevention and Research, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (invited)

## Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

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