

Construction crafts and SMEs in Europe in partnership with the European OSHA Campaign 'Healthy workplaces – Good for you. Good for business' Stress

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The European Builders Confederation

The European Builders Confederation represents craftsmen and SMEs from the construction sector across Europe. Its main activity is conveying information, both from the companies and the national level to the European institutions and from the European level down to company level. In order to do so effectively and competently EBC counts on a vast network of members and partners in over 600,000 construction SMEs in 15 EU Member States and Turkey.

Health and safety and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

The European Builders Confederation and its members formalised their joint engagement in 2004 by signing a charter for the promotion of health and safety among craftsmen and SMEs of the European construction sector. Based on the terms of the charter, EBC established a network of health and safety experts within its member organisations. The experts meet formally twice a year in Brussels to exchange best practice and discuss policy developments. EBC has also long been involved with the activities of the Bilbao Agency, most recently by signing the Bilbao declaration in 2004, co-organising the Bilbao follow-up conference 'Bilbao II – two years after' in 2006 and by becoming official campaign partner of the Healthy Workplaces campaign 2008/2009.

The EBC project 'Under Construction II – improving health and safety in construction SMEs'

Currently EBC is running a European project co-financed by the European Commission, DG Employment, called 'Under Construction II – improving health and safety in construction SMEs'. The 13 project partners are national associations of construction SMEs, as well as trade unions in 10 Member States and Turkey. During the project 10 conferences have been organised in as many countries. The meetings provide a platform for best practice exchange between well established professional associations with a large amount of experience in the field of health and safety based in the EU 15 Member States, and associations from the EU 12 Member States and Turkey who are still in the process of developing their activity in the health and safety field.

The project focuses on, but is not limited to, assessing and disseminating activities within the framework of the social dialogue. The meetings are therefore generally attended by both employer and employee associations, as well as government officials of the host country and other relevant bodies. Each meeting is also attended by the national OSHA Focal Point, providing an opportunity to present and disseminate relevant activities and engage the participating associations directly.