The Enterprise Europe Network

Business and innovation support for SMEs

EU-OSHA European Partnership Meeting
Brussels, 28 March 2012

Peter Wragg – Head of Unit, DG ENTR/E2
SMEs are the backbone of our economy

- **75 mil. Jobs**
- **Contribution to GDP**
  - SMEs
  - Others
- **Up to 90% of jobs in some industry sectors**
SMEs and the Single Market

• 450 million consumers
• Millions of potential business and technology partners
• A wealth of (missed) opportunities
  ▪ A minority have international activities in the EU
  ▪ Even fewer are active outside the EU
• SMEs = vulnerable actors
  ▪ Competitive pressures, globalisation, crisis: the smaller a company, the harder it gets hit
  ▪ Investments into safety & health seen as non-productive costs
Mission of the Network

• **Internationalisation**
  - Business partnerships
  - Advice on EU laws, rules, standards
  - Help SMEs access markets and benefit from the Single Market
  - Access to finance and funding opportunities

• **Innovation**
  - Technology transfer
  - Modern innovation support services & Innovation audits, IPR

• **Increase R&D activities of SMEs**
  - participation in FP7

• **Feedback and consultation: dialogue with SMEs**
SMEs and occupational safety/health

- More than **100,000 fatalities** within SMEs yearly
  - room for **improvement**
  - to contribute to **safer and healthier workplaces**
  - which in turn would help SMEs to be **more effective**

- Current economic setting is **challenging**

- Respect of human life and employees’ safety and health should always be a **priority**
  - economic **crisis not to be taken as excuse** to disregard
EU-OSHA and Enterprise Europe Network

• Cooperation between EU-OSHA and the Enterprise Europe Network renewed in 2009

• Common Communication Partnership Working Group (6 Enterprise Europe Network partners with 6 EU-OSHA Focal Points)

• 22 OSH Ambassadors covering 21 Member States from our Network! – actively involved in organising events and relaying OSH messages and will play a key role in the new campaign ‘Working together for risk prevention’
Thank you for your attention!

Business Support at Your Doorstep