Expert meeting on the costs of accidents and ill-health at work

The need for an EU-28 estimate

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
Health, Safety and Hygiene at work

Bilbao, 19th of June 2014
Need for an EU-28 estimate...

...from whose perspective?

- EU institutions
- Employers
- Governments
- Employees
- Scientific community
Taking the EU Commission perspective...

**Article 153 of the TFEU:**

- Improvement of the working environment in order to protect workers’ health and safety (the aim: reduction of occupational accidents and diseases, consequently the reduction in costs related to poor OSH)

- To this end, it foresees the adoption of directives setting minimum requirements

- Member States are allowed to maintain or introduce more stringent protective measures
What reinforces the need for an EU-28 estimate?

- **SMART Regulation**

- **Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT)**
  - Sees if the aims of EU legislation are being met efficiently and effectively
  - Detects regulatory burdens, gaps and inefficiencies
  - Identifies opportunities for simplification
  - Proposals for revision/repealing of legislation where appropriate

- **The development of legislative initiatives (Impact Assessments)**

Need to develop the evidence base, including data on costs and benefits related to the EU legislation
What projects in the OSH policy field will benefit from an EU-28 estimate?


- *Impact assessments.*
EU Strategic Framework on H&S 2014-2020

Identifies three main challenges:

- To improve the implementation of existing health and safety rules;
- To improve the prevention of work-related diseases;
- To take account of the ageing of the EU's workforce.
EU Strategic Framework on H&S 2014-2020

These challenges are to be addressed through seven strategic objectives:

- Further consolidating national health and safety strategies;
- Providing practical support to small and micro enterprises to help them better comply with OSH rules;
- Improving enforcement by Member States;
- Simplifying existing legislation;
- Addressing the ageing of the European workforce;
- Reinforcing coordination with international organisations;
- Improving statistical data collection to have better evidence and developing monitoring tools before 2016, examine options to improve information on costs and benefits in the area of OSH.
Ex-post evaluation – general information

• New five-yearly exercise under the Framework Directive, but first exercise covering period 2007 to 2012

• Evaluation of 24 EU Directives on health and safety at work according to the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, coherence

• Under the effectiveness criterion need to study to what extent the legal framework has contributed to the reduction in accidents at work, occupational diseases and work-related ill-health across the EU, what are the costs and benefits related to the EU legislation
Ex-post evaluation – directives concerned

**Directive 89/391/EEC** of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work (Framework Directive) and 23 daughter directives, including:

- **General Directives**, such as the Workplaces Directive (89/654/EEC) or Work equipment Directive (2009/104/EC);
- **Sector-specific Directives** such as the Construction sites Directive (92/57/EEC);
- **Worker-type specific Directives** such as the Young workers Directive (94/33/EC);
- **Hazard-specific Directives** such as the Physical agents Directives, the Chemical agents Directive, the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive, the Asbestos Directive or the Biological agents Directive.
Other projects

• *Impact assessments*
  • Key tool to ensure that Commission initiatives and EU legislation are prepared on the basis of transparent, comprehensive, robust and balanced evidence;
  • Emphasis put on the costs and benefits of the policy options;
  • Follow-up of the OSH ex-post evaluation.
Thank you for your attention.