

## **Memorandum of Understanding between the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work and the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions**

### **Objectives**

1. This Memorandum of Understanding sets out guidelines to ensure an efficient collaboration between the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work and the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions in areas of common interest.
2. The aim of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (the Foundation) is to *“contribute to the planning and establishment of better living and working conditions, through action designed to increase and disseminate knowledge likely to assist this development. With this aim in view, the tasks of the Foundation shall be to develop and to pursue ideas on the medium- and long-term improvement of living and working conditions in the light of practical experience and to identify factors leading to change. The Foundation shall take the relevant Community policies into account when carrying out its tasks. It shall advise the Community institutions on foreseeable objectives and guidelines by forwarding in particular scientific information and technical data”* (Regulation (EEC) No 1365/75 of the Council of 26 May 1975, Article 2).
3. The aim of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (the Agency) is laid down in Article 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 2062/94 of 18 July 1994 as follows: *“In order to encourage improvements, especially in the working environment, as regards the protection of the safety and health of workers as provided for in the Treaty and successive action programmes concerning health and safety at the workplace, the aim of the Agency shall be to provide the Community bodies, the Member States and those involved in the field with the technical, scientific and economic information of use in the field of safety and health at work”* .
4. Article 3.2 of the Foundation’s establishing regulation states that “the Foundation shall co-operate as closely as possible with specialised institutes, foundations and bodies in the Member States or at international level”. Similarly, the Agency’s establishing regulation states in article 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph that “the Agency shall work as closely as possible with the existing institutions, foundations, specialist bodies and programmes at Community level in order to avoid any duplication”. Furthermore the preamble to the regulation for the Agency says that the Agency should maintain “close links with existing Community bodies and programmes, in particular with the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, in order to avoid any duplication”.

5. The Foundation is an important provider of safety- and health-related information at the Community level to the Agency's Network. The data provided by the Agency can be of value in the development of the Foundation's Work Programmes.

### **Working relationships between the Agency and the Foundation**

6. Regular contacts, as required by specific activities, between Foundation staff and the Agency staff will be organised.
7. These regular working contacts will complement the more formal relationship at management level between the Director of the Agency and the Director of the Foundation.

### **Working procedures**

8. The two organisations will establish links between their Internet web sites and liaise on Internet developments.
9. The two organisations will normally invite each other to participate in working meetings on projects relevant to the work of the other institution.
10. The Foundation will make available to the Agency, without charge, its databases and publications, including its publications on electronic media.
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### **Working programme**

12. In the framework of the Foundation's four-year rolling Programme and of the Agency's four year rolling programme 2001-2004, the two organisations will transmit to each other their draft outline work programmes for the following year. The two organisations will work together as closely as possible in order to ensure the sharing of knowledge, to identify and fill gaps, to avoid any duplication and to ensure full transparency especially regarding the planning of safety- and health- related projects.

13. The Chairpersons of the two Administrative Boards and the two Directors will be invited to attend meetings of the other organisations' Boards as observers (see Article 8, Paragraph 7 of the Agency's founding regulation, 2062/94).
14. This Memorandum of Understanding has been approved by the two Administrative Boards and will be reviewed in the year 2002.
15. This Memorandum of Understanding in no way affects the regulations establishing the two organisations and is not intended to be legally binding.

For the Foundation

For the Agency

Raymond Pierre Bodin  
Director  
Date:

Hans-Horst Konkolewsky  
Director  
Date: