



DGT
EEI
Réf :

Paris, December 16, 2021

DRAFT AGENDA

Acting on occupational cancers : for a better effectiveness of prevention

Theme of the event : primary prevention of exposure to carcinogens, particularly in VSEs and SMEs.

According to the European Commission's statement in 2020, approximately 120,000 new cancer cases were reported each year in the European Union because of exposure to carcinogens at work, resulting in the deaths of about 80,000 people annually. According to EU-OSHA, cancer is the leading cause of work-related deaths in the EU: 52% of work-related deaths each year are currently due to work-related cancers, compared to 24% for circulatory diseases, 22% for other diseases and 2% for injuries. The European Parliament and the Council adopted the ongoing revision exercise of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive in December 2017, January 2019 and June 2019. These three revisions have introduced binding occupational exposure limit values for 26 substances, with the aim of minimising exposure to carcinogenic chemicals. The aim of this conference is to raise awareness on the prevention of risks resulting from exposure to carcinogenic substances in the workplace in VSEs and SMEs and to allow for an exchange of good practice between experts and social partners.

HALF-DAY 1

Welcome 1-2pm (coffee).

Plenary introduction : general presentation of the event and introduction of the opening speech (approx. 2 min)

General moderator for the event : Brenda O'Brien (EU OSHA)

Opening speech (approx. 10 min per speaker, 30 min in total).

- Laurent Pietraszewski, Secretary of State to the Minister for Labour, Employment and Integration, responsible for Pensions and Occupational Health
- Commission (Director DG EMPL) : The 2021-2027 strategic framework on health and safety at work in the EU, including prevention objectives related to occupational risks (CMD, updating of OELs).
- EU OSHA (Director) : Actions (surveys, studies) carried out by the agency.

Presentation by the European Economic and Social Committee on « the role of the social partners in the development and deployment of preventive actions » (approx. 15 min) (To be confirmed with the CESE)

The DGT has requested an exploratory opinion from the EESC on "social dialogue as a tool for health and safety at work" for 15 February 2022, which could be presented on this occasion. The communication could focus in particular on the practical involvement of the social partners in

strengthening prevention, whether at national or regional level in Europe, and on proposals for measures to improve and strengthen social dialogue in OSH policies.

Plenary presentations (approx. 15 min per presentation + 10 min discussion, 50 min in total)

These presentations will in part provide input for the 4 workshops that follow them.

- Thematic presentation 1 : **How to make risk prevention, particularly carcinogens and mutagens, more concrete in VSEs and SMEs ?** (*Presentation by OPPBTP (Paul Duphil and/or Christine Deneuvillers) and EU OSHA or other European contribution*)

Introduction to the main principles of prevention of carcinogenic risk by recalling the role of Directive (EU) 2004/37/EC of 29 April 2004 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work. The implementation of this directive in the field is of particular interest to those involved in prevention and has an impact on the means implemented (risk assessment tools) for VSEs and SMEs. Throughout Europe, the number of accidents in VSEs and SMEs is high compared with large companies, especially in certain sectors of activity. The Uniform Occupational Risks Assessment Document (DUER) is often perceived as an obligation rather than as a useful prevention tool. The objective is to draw up an overview and desirable developments of the tools and actions available, and of the strategies and actions of the branches for the benefit of primary prevention in VSEs and SMEs.

- Thematic presentation 2 : **Substitution of hazardous chemicals, a continuing priority for the prevention of carcinogenic and mutagenic risks** (*Speech by INRS/CARSAT or BAuA or an academic*)

The substitution of carcinogenic products is a priority issue in chemical risk prevention. This approach is sometimes difficult to grasp in companies, particularly in VSEs, because it must take into account several factors such as operating and production constraints. Indeed, such an approach may lead to changes in workstations, the introduction of new equipment or processes. There are various issues at stake, from the identification of these chemical agents (spotting) to the implementation of a substitution approach by associating the necessary skills and identifying the right tools and good practices. In this respect, the social partners can assist in initiating the process in the field.

After a quick review of existing tools (Subsport, substitution-cmr...), the aim is to identify the levers for improving the implementation of these approaches in companies.

Break 30 min.

Workshops in small groups* (approx. 1h30 per workshop).

Approximately 25 participants per workshop.

Workshops 1 and 2 will be translated into French and English.

Workshops 3 and 4 will be entirely in English.

*Note that each of these groups must be composed of representatives of each group of stakeholders, i.e. national experts, representatives of EU and national institutions and social partners (workers and employers).

Small group sessions around 4 thematic workshops :

Workshop on the role of social partners in the development and deployment of prevention actions

Moderators to be confirmed : Tony Musu ? (ETUI), Rolf Gehrig to be contacted (EFBWW), OS/OP representatives Patrick Levy (MEDEF)

Axis 1 : Improve the articulation of the role of the social partners between the different levels of prevention (European, national, company). The aim would be to promote agreements between the European social partners and the national partners to improve the coordination of European legislative measures and to implement them in the Member States and companies. The aim is to strengthen social dialogue within VSEs in order to support preventive measures on a daily basis. Examples of successful agreements (Roadmap on Carcinogens, autonomous work programmes, European Social Fund consultations).

Axis 2 : Developing the role of the social partners through exchanges of good practices and the management of skills linked to training. This time will be dedicated to sharing good practices between the European social partners.

Workshop on support tools for VSEs

Moderators to be confirmed : Mickaël Guiheneuf (CNAM) and 1 European actor to be defined (Romy Marx ? (BMAS))

Presentation of the context : Olivier Leberre (INRS) or Mickaël Guiheneuf (CNAM)

Presentation of the context : Why is it difficult to understand prevention tools in VSEs ? The French approach will be presented at a later stage.

Topic : Improving the handling of existing tools by prevention actors. The aim would be to distinguish between the various tools (inventory, risk assessment, good practices, etc.) and to explain their function and usefulness in VSEs. Actors such as SPSTs, branches by sector of activity, technical centres (FCBA, textile) have a central role in the deployment of prevention tools. The Beryllium chain (Roadmap) and the AT/MP France approach (chemical risk PRO) will serve as examples.

Workshop on the articulation between European regulations on chemical risks (REACH/OSH)

Moderators to be confirmed : Henri Bastos (ANSES) and European Commission/agencies (DG EMPL, DG GROW or ECHA)

Axis 1 : Optimising European procedures for assessment and management measures. There will be several levels of discussion: questioning the production capacity of the OELs (EU and national expertise resources), clarifying regulatory overlaps (1S1A work, REACH revision, OEL/DNEL conflict and other limit values in the PPPR and BPR regulations on plant protection products and biocides) and promoting the recognition of carcinogenic processes.

Axis 2 : Better information for workers and prevention services. This would involve improving the readability of exposure scenarios in safety data sheets (SDSs) with a proposal for intervention by those working in the field (inspection bodies, prevention officers). Residual risk could be raised through the identification of key information. In order to direct questions linked to the REACH regulation, feedback from helpdesks could be provided.

Workshop on the link between research and exposure prevention (substitution, polyexposure, cytostatic agents, etc.)

Moderators to be confirmed : Tony Musu (ETUI) ? and Bernard Siano (INRS)

Axis 1 : How can the prevention effort be shared between researchers, experts and companies to better take into account the reality in the field ? The aim is to examine the way in which information from the field is taken into account in research and then translated into preventive action. The Nordic Occupational Cancer Studies NOCCA research project (cross-referencing data from occupational cancer registers) could be used as an example.

Axis 2 : Acquire coordination data for its exploitation. There are obstacles to the collection of relevant information to guide the research work. In this case, what would be the European modalities to move towards data sharing between EU member states ?

End of working groups 5.35pm.

Return to plenary session (5-10 minutes).

Reminder of the location of the social event and announcement of the programme for day 2 by the moderator.

End of Day 1 5:45pm.

Social Event/Gala Dinner.

HALF-DAY 2

Welcome 9am - 9.30am (coffee).

Plenary session

Restitution of the workshop groups (carried out by the moderators of each workshop, 1 hour in total : about 10 minutes per group + 5 minutes of exchanges per group).

Testimony from a company (VSE-SMEs) (approx. 20 min) which has implemented a prevention approach and in collaboration with a trade union organisation in the ETUC : risk assessment, procedure, tools, difficulties encountered, players mobilised, benefits for employees, etc.

Subject to be confirmed and organisations proposing contact with a company :

- CNAM/CARSAT in connection with the pro chemical risk trophies (Mickaël Guiheneuf)
- France Chimie in the Beryllium sector (Patrick Levy)
- EU OSHA : example of specific tools and feedback for German VSEs and SMEs
- French or European company on the issue of silica in the construction sector

Break 30 min.

Resumption of the plenary session

Presentation of innovative tools/methods (approx. 30 min) :

The progress of European and national regulations on the prevention of chemical risks is encouraging VSEs and SMEs to reduce the levels of exposure to chemical agents in the workplace. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of risk assessment and protection measures is far from optimal, and many workers remain exposed. In this context, the implementation of management measures adapted to proven or sometimes uncertain risks, the provision of effective tools to help companies assess and prevent chemical risks, and the reinforcement of information on risks are all essential elements of an active policy with regard to the health and safety issues related to chemical agents. It is therefore proposed to compare these tools or to make a separate presentation of the tools proposed below :

- Seirich tool (Evaluation and information system on chemical risks in the workplace) developed by INRS and PROS chemical risks (Presentation by Mickaël Guiheneuf to be confirmed)
- And other tools developed by the various Member States: OIRA (INRS) (+ projection of a NAPO film on the assessment of occupational risks online, approx. 2 min) and/or E-tools dangerous substances (EU OSHA).

Round table (ETUC/ETUI, SMEUnited, ANSES, Commission, academic ...) (approx. 1h including 10 min per intervention and 10 min questions, EU OSHA moderator)

Topic : Occupational cancer risk in women and polyexposure.

In 2018, the French National Agency for the Improvement of Working Conditions (ANACT) published data on occupational diseases which affect men (51%) as much as women (49%). There are highly feminised sectors of activity, such as cleaning, nail care and health care, which are highly poly-exposed and yet under-represented in the research studies. The aim of this round table is to illustrate carcinogenic exposures in women in the workplace and to suggest ways of improving the understanding of risks to a more specific population of women. For example, the gendered distribution of tasks would make it possible to sub-categorise the types of exposure in risk assessment procedures (endometriosis, breast cancer) and to adapt the organisation of the worker by implementing effective collective and individual protective equipment.

Moreover, occupational polyexposure is part of a more global questioning of the exposome, which studies all the exposures to which an individual is exposed throughout his life. Cancers have genetic and non-genetic determinants, with interactions, the study of which makes it possible to better understand exposures, particularly for the most sensitive populations. The multiplicity of these risk factors (such as exposure to chemical or biological agents, the existence of socio-economic factors, dietary imbalance) requires a multi-disciplinary and integrated approach.

Closing speech (DGT) (approx. 10 min)

End 1pm.