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Uachtaránacht na hÉireann ar Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh 2026
Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026

HSA Carcinogens Conference 2026

"The Air We Work In: Protecting Workers from Respirable Carcinogens"

Roadmap on Carcinogens 3.0 - Ireland Event

Conference Agenda

HSA

An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority

Day 1: Wednesday 28 October 12:00 – 17:00pm		
Time	**Title**	**Presenter**
12:00	Light lunch	Registration
13:00	Welcome	**Ms Brenda O'Brien MC**
13:10	Conference Welcome	**Mr Mark Cullen** Chief Executive Officer Health and Safety Authority
13:20	Opening Address	**Mr Alan Dillon TD** Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment with responsibility for Employment, Small Business and Retail, and at the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment with responsibility for the Circular Economy
13:35	Joining forces to protect workers from exposure to carcinogens	**Ms Maria Luisa Cabral** Director for Quality Jobs, Working Conditions and Social Dialogue, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), European Commission
14:00	A Roadmap to STOP carcinogens at work	**Dr Romy Marx** - Roadmap on Carcinogens Policy Officer at the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS), a position she has held since 2021.
14:20	Safe work with carcinogens – coordinated inspections in Germany 2020-2025	**Ms Angela Crone** - Roadmap on Carcinogens Head of Unit III2 – Chemical and Medical Occupational Safety and Health, Medical Device Law, within Division III – Labour at the Ministry of Labour, Integration, Youth and Social Affairs of Hessen in Wiesbaden, Germany.
14:40	Q&A	**Ms Brenda O'Brien**
14:50	Break	Refreshments
15:10	Irish Cancer Society Awareness Campaign: Workplace Carcinogens	**Mr Kevin O' Hagan** Cancer Prevention Manager, Irish Cancer Society
15:30	Asbestos: A European Perspective on Control of Exposure	**Ms Elke De Vits** Chair, SLIC Asbestos Campaign Working Group. Labour Inspector and Occupational Hygiene Expert General Directorate for Supervision of Well-being at Work, FPS Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue, Belgium
15:50	Radon gas: A workplace carcinogen	**Ms Alison Dowdall** Scientific Officer, Radon and Citizen Science team, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
16:10	Q&A	**Ms Brenda O'Brien**
16:20	Protecting Worker's Health from Occupational Cancer: The role of the Health and Safety Authority	**Ms Michelle Nolan and Mr Brian McHugh,** Senior Inspectors, Occupational Health Health and Safety Authority
16:40	OSHVET	OSHVET Poster Prize Winners Presentation
16:50	Wrap up	**Ms Brenda O'Brien**
17:00	**Close**	

Day 2: Thursday 29 October 8:30am – 13:00pm		
Time	**Item**	**Presenter**
8:30	Tea/Coffee	Registration
9:00	Welcome & Recap	**Ms Brenda O'Brien**
9:10	Conference Opening Address	**Dr Adrienne Duff** Assistant Chief Executive Occupational Health Health and Safety Authority
9:20	Exposure to respirable cancer risk factors in Europe – Findings from the Workers' Exposure Survey	**Ms Marine Cavet** Survey Coordinator, Prevention and Research Unit, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)
9:45	Breathing fresh air into Irelands residential energy retrofit programme	**Dr Marie Coggins** Senior Lecturer in Exposure Science School of Natural Sciences, University of Galway
10:05	Panel Discussion: The Future of Occupational Cancer Prevention: Emerging Risks, Emerging Solutions	**Chair: Ms Aoife Sweeney** Programme Manager, Occupational Health, Health and Safety Authority Panel members: • Ms Maria Luisa Cabral • Dr Adrienne Duff • Dr Ovo Oghuvbu • Dr Romy Marx • Prof William Gallagher
10:40	Break	**Coffee Break**
11:00	National Cancer Mission Hubs: Connecting Research and Policy	**Prof William Gallagher** EU Cancer Mission National Director of the HSE National Cancer Control Programme and National Co-ordinator of the ECHoS project
11:20	Occupational Lung Diseases	**Dr Paul McKeagney** Faculty of Occupational Medicine Consultant Respiratory Physician
11:40	Workers' health protection through social dialogue: the NEPSI Agreement on crystalline silica	**Mr Andy Price** Co-Chair and Secretariat contact for NEPSI (The European Network on Silica) and the Health and Safety Director at IMA-Europe
12:20	Conference Close	**Ms Brenda O'Brien**
12:30	Light Lunch	Take away or eat in

Speakers Bio

Romy Marx

Dr Romy Marx is a Policy Officer at Germany's Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS). She specialises in hazardous substances, particularly carcinogens and metals, and their regulation. She represents Germany on the Working Party on Chemicals and manages the Roadmap on Carcinogens.

Angela Crone

Angela Crone heads the unit responsible for chemical and medical occupational safety and health and medical device law, within the Ministry of Labour, Integration, Youth and Social Affairs of Hessen in Wiesbaden, Germany. Her background spans government, environmental research and recycling, supported by qualifications in chemistry and economics.

Kevin O'Hagan

Kevin has been the Cancer Prevention Manager at the Irish Cancer Society for over 14 years. He is currently leading community education programmes and the delivery of national awareness campaigns at the Irish Cancer Society. He has experience in the design and evaluation of health promotion projects, monitoring and measuring the impact of services and commissioning research and evaluation studies. He has post-graduate training in Health Education, Cancer Prevention, Community Development and Psychotherapy.

Marine Cavet

Marine Cavet is a Research Project Manager at the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) since 2014. She coordinates its Workers' Exposure Survey on cancer risk factors in Europe and follow-up projects, and previously managed research on rehabilitation and return to work after cancer.

William Gallagher

Professor William Gallagher is Professor of Cancer Biology at University College Dublin, Co-Lead of the All-Island Cancer Research Institute and Scientific Director of St. Vincent's-UCD Cancer Centre. Together with the National Cancer Control Programme, he is also co-leading out on Irish participation in the EU Cancer Mission project, ECHoS , which is establishing National Cancer Mission Hubs across all EU member states and several associated countries.

Marie Coggins

Dr Marie Coggins is an Associate Professor in Exposure Science at the University of Galway and Chartered Fellow of the faculty of the British Occupational Hygiene Society. She is the Programme Director of the University's BSc (Occupational Health and Safety Management). She leads the University of Galway Exposure Science research team, where her research focuses on characterizing the magnitude of human exposure and exposure pathways for a range of pollutants across multiple microenvironments.

Paul McKeagney

Dr Paul McKeagney is a Consultant Respiratory Physician at Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and leads Northern Ireland's regional Occupational Lung Disease service. He is a member of the UK Group of Occupational Respiratory Disease Specialists and a Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

Alison Dowdall

Alison Dowdall is a Scientific Officer on the Environmental Protection Agency's Radon and Citizen Science Team. Since joining the team in 2011, she has played a key role in delivering EPA actions under Ireland's National Radon Control Strategy. Her work includes managing radon-related research projects and she leads the development and monitoring of metrics used to measure the progress and effectiveness of the national strategy over time.

Andy Price

Andy Price has over 30 years' experience in industrial minerals, mainly in occupational health, safety and industrial hygiene at Sibelco. He chairs the European Silica Network's (NEPSI) Technical Committee and helped author its good practice guide on protecting workers from respirable crystalline silica.

Maria Luisa Cabral

Maria Luisa Cabral is a Director in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, responsible for working conditions and social dialogue. She joined the European Commission in 2004 and served as President Ursula von der Leyen's Skills and Social Adviser from 2019 to 2024. She has a degree in Political Sciences, from the Université Libre de Bruxelles and a post-degree in European Studies, from the Instituto Superior de Economia e Gestão of the Universidade Técnica of Lisbon.

Elke De Vits

Elke De Vits is a Labour Inspector and National Coordinator for Occupational Hygiene within the Directorate-General Control on Well-being at Work of the Belgian Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue. She has over 20 years' inspection experience, with particular expertise in asbestos, and chairs the SLIC Working Group preparing the SLIC asbestos campaign.

Brenda O'Brien

Brenda O'Brien worked for EU-OSHA since 2002. In 2005 she set up the EU-OSHA Brussels Liaison Office where she continued until 2025. During those years, she represented and promoted the work of the Agency in the EU institutions and bodies, liaised with key stakeholders in Brussels, Luxembourg and Member States, particularly the European interprofessional and sectoral trade union and employer organisations. Before that she was Deputy General Secretary of the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF).

Oghenovo Oghuvbu

Dr. Oghenovo Oghuvbu is a graduate of the College of Medicine, University of Lagos in Nigeria and an Accredited Specialist and Consultant in Occupational Medicine since 2006. He is a Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He is Chief Medical Officer at An Garda Síochána, leading its Occupational Health and Wellbeing Directorate since 2017.

Aoife Sweeney

Aoife Sweeney is a Programme Manager with the Health and Safety Authority, overseeing teams working across high-risk sectors, psychosocial and behavioural risks, and occupational health and hygiene. Her work focuses on prevention and strengthening the Authority's response to emerging workplace health risks.

Adrienne Duff

Dr Adrienne Duff graduated from University College Dublin with a degree and PhD in Chemistry. She also holds a degree in law and a Master degree in public administration. Adrienne is a member of the Institute of Directors and a Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland. In 2008 she became the head of the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) and held that position until 2022. She was appointed Assistant Chief Executive for Occupational Health at the Health and Safety Authority in 2022 and oversees occupational health policy and inspections, occupational medicine and enterprise and employee supports.

Brian McHugh

Brian McHugh is a Senior Inspector in the Health and Safety Authority's Occupational Health Division, with over 22 years' inspection experience in the Authority. He manages a team specialising in occupational health and hygiene, particularly chemical agents, asbestos and confined spaces, and has extensive investigation and enforcement experience. Brian holds a B.Sc. Degree in Occupational Safety and Health and a National Diploma in Health, Safety and Industrial Hygiene from the Institute of Technology, Sligo.

Michelle Nolan

Michelle is a Registered General Nurse (RGN) with a B.Sc. and H. Dip. in Nursing Studies, in which she gained valuable experience in Orthopaedics and Theatre. She later pursued an M.Sc. in Occupational Health and Ergonomics. With 18 years' experience in industries including waste management and engineering manufacturing, Michelle has worked in various Occupational Health and Environmental Health & Safety Specialist roles. In 2023, she joined the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) as a Senior Inspector in the Medical and Policy Support Team (MAPS), Occupational Health Division.