



Safer and Healthier Work for All - Modernisation of the EU OSH Legislation and Policy

Communication from the Commission

***Making EU legislation on health and safety at
work future-proof***

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Context

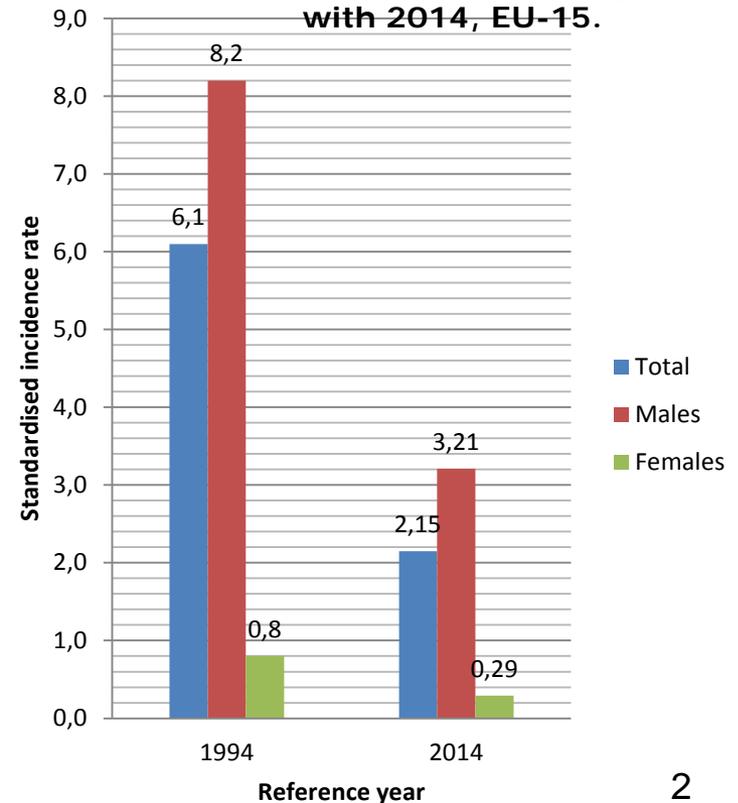
25 years of OSH policy at EU level

Decreasing numbers of work-related accidents and ill-health

New challenges – changing world of work

Need to guarantee that EU remains at the vanguard and ensure effective worker protection

Standardised incidence rate for fatal accidents at work, 1994 compared with 2014, EU-15.



Source: Eurostat, ESAW, Data for the NACE common branches

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Background/ Context

- Evaluation of the EU Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) legislation for the period 2007-2012, based on Article 17a of the Framework Directive 89/391/EEC;
- EU OSH Strategic Framework 2014-2020



Ex-post evaluation of the EU OSH Directives – main findings:

*Directives remain mostly **relevant**, but **challenges persist**:*

- **The burden of occupational cancer remains high**
- **Coverage of some groups of workers could be improved**
- **Some provisions are outdated and/or could be simplified**
- **Business, especially SMEs, needs support to better apply OSH rules**
- **Need to strengthen inspection and monitoring**



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Aims at tackling the OSH challenges identified by proposing actions along 3 priority areas:

- *Stepping up the **fight against occupational cancer** and exposure to chemicals;*
- *Helping businesses, in particular **microenterprises and SMEs**, comply with OSH rules;*
- *Cooperating with Member States and social partners to remove or **update outdated rules** and to refocus efforts on ensuring better and broader protection, **compliance and enforcement** on the ground.*

1. Fight against occupational cancer

Stepping up the fight against occupational cancer reducing exposure to chemicals through legislative proposals accompanied by increased guidance and awareness-raising:

- *Further amendment of the Carcinogens Directive (COM (2017)11)*
- *Proposal for a 3rd amendment of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive in 2018*
- *Fourth list of indicative limit values in the Chemical Agents directive adopted 31/01/2017;*
- *Healthy Workplaces EU-OSHA Campaign on dangerous substances 2018-2019.*

2. Helping businesses comply with OSH rules

- *Focus on micro and small enterprises*
- *Practical guidance for employers published with the Communication*
- *Boosting the availability and use of free e-tools such as the Online interactive Risk Assessment (OiRA)*
- *Good practices, guides and tools to address issues of growing concern (psychosocial risks, MSDs, ageing) to be developed together with the EU-OSHA and the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee*

3. Making OSH framework future-proof

➤ *two-year program for removing or updating outdated provisions while maintaining or improving workers protection in several Directives in close cooperation with the governments representatives and social partners within the Advisory Committee*

- **Display screen equipment**
 - **OSH signs**
 - **Biological agents**
 - **Medical assistance on board**
 - **Workplaces**
 - **Personal protective equipment**
- *Encouraging MS to ensure a broad coverage of OSH policies:*
- *Self-employed (full implementation of the Council Recommendation)*
 - *Domestic workers (ratification of the relevant ILO Convention)*

Improving compliance and enforcement

- *Perception of OSH rules as complex varies from 14% to 67% across the Member States – need to work together to **reduce administrative burdens related to transposition of EU law** into national legislation.*
- ***Peer-review process** to facilitate learning from good practices in other Member States*
- *Inspections going beyond mere sanctioning - Improving enforcement on the ground (better standards and guidance, raising awareness, SLIC).*

Thank you for your attention!

Where to find the documents:

COM(2017)12, SWD(2017)9, SWD(2017)10
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2709>