Welcome to the European Agency workshop on
“Economic incentives to improve occupational safety and health”

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Economic Incentives in times of recession

- Lack of investment in safer working conditions can threaten the existence of many enterprises.
- 60% of SMEs that have a disruption lasting more than 9 days go out of business (HSE, 2005).
- The relative impact in SMEs is greater than on comparable larger enterprises.
  - Key workers cannot be easily or quickly replaced.
  - Short-term interruptions of business can lead to loss of clients and important contracts.
- Investment in workplace health promotion leads to Returns on Investment (ROI) between 2.5 € and 4.8 €.
Economic Incentives in times of recession

- Estimated costs of work related accidents and ill-health in the EU are between 2 and 4% of GDP.
- Well designed economic incentives can lead to lower accident rates and reduced costs for the whole economy.
- More economic incentives is called for in the new community strategy 2007-2012.

Objectives of this meeting
  - Discuss first results of the project
  - Exchange knowledge on economic incentives