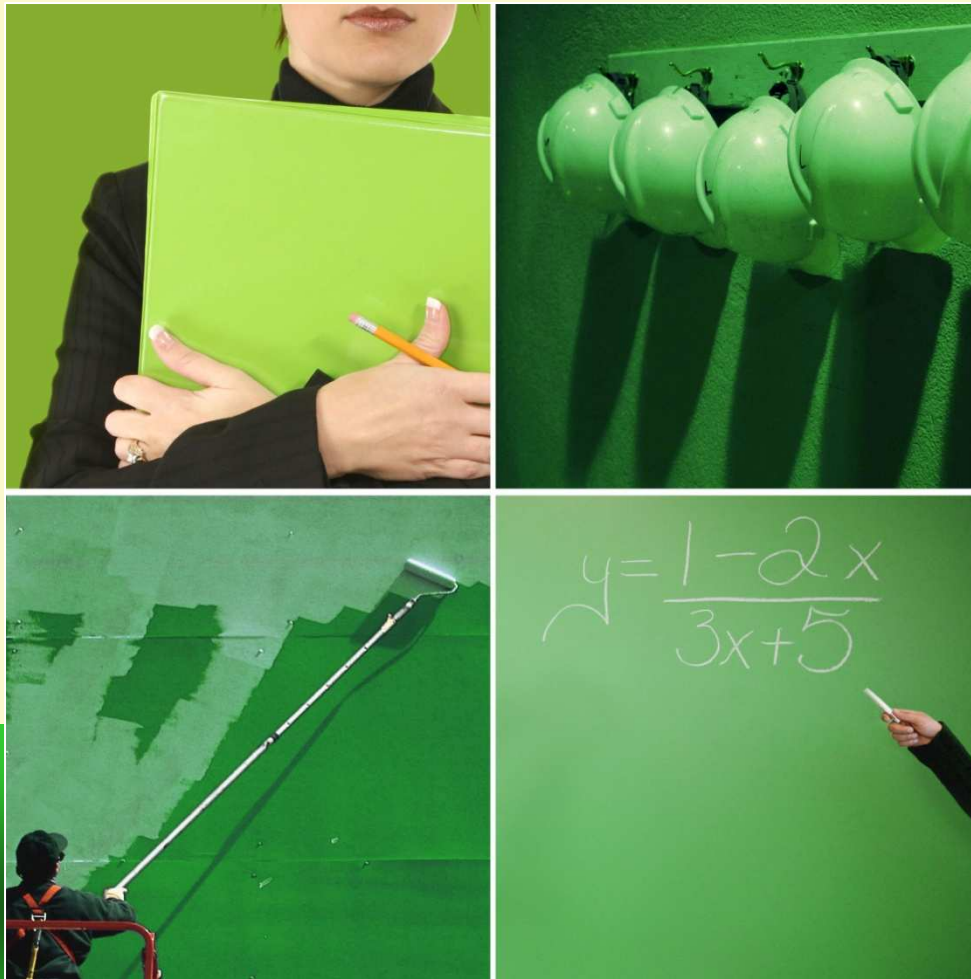


Workshop on National OSH strategies

Luxembourg, 7-8 October 2009

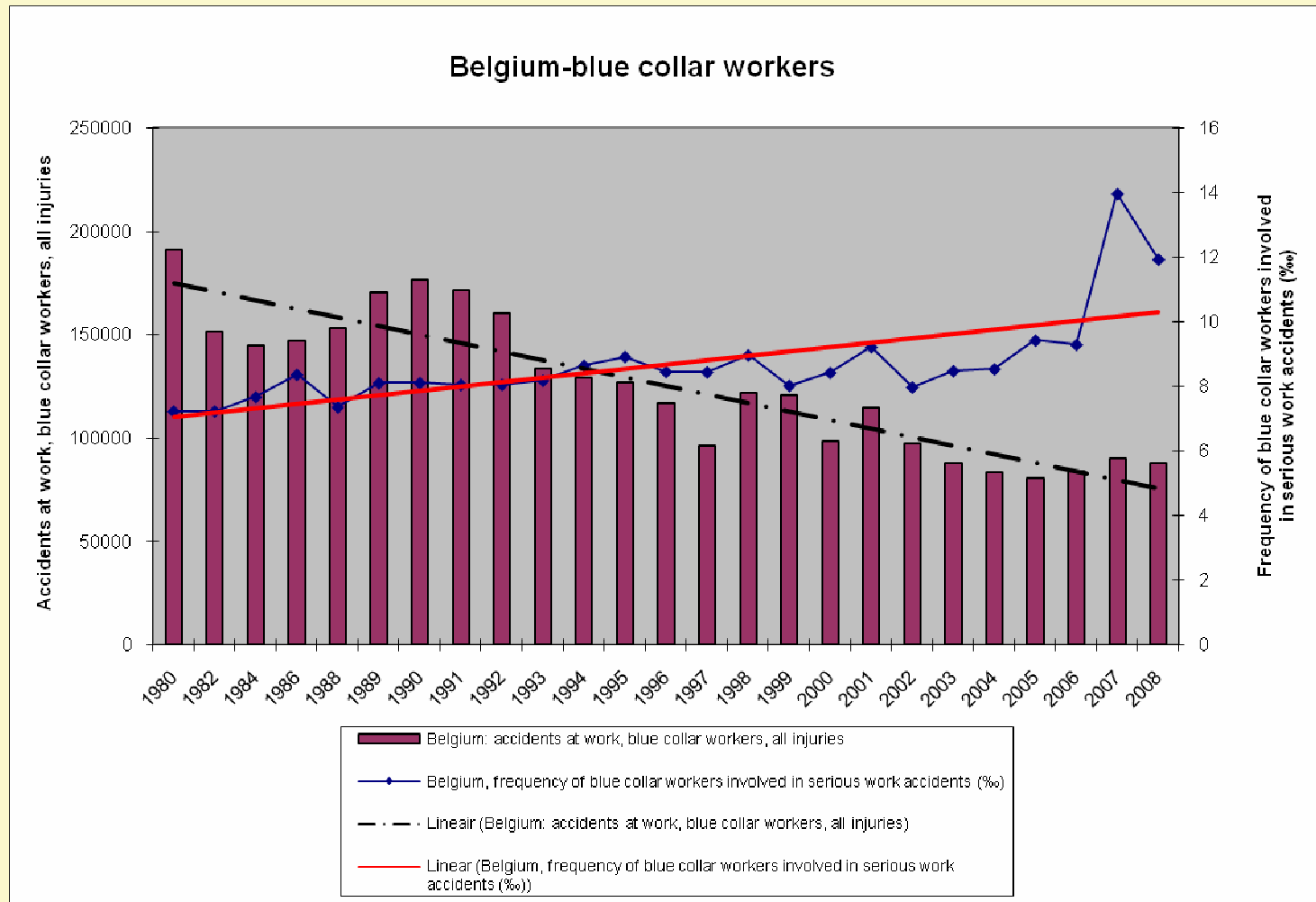
*Panel 3: OSH strategies in context
experiences with specific challenges*

Herman Fonck
Workers Group Belgium

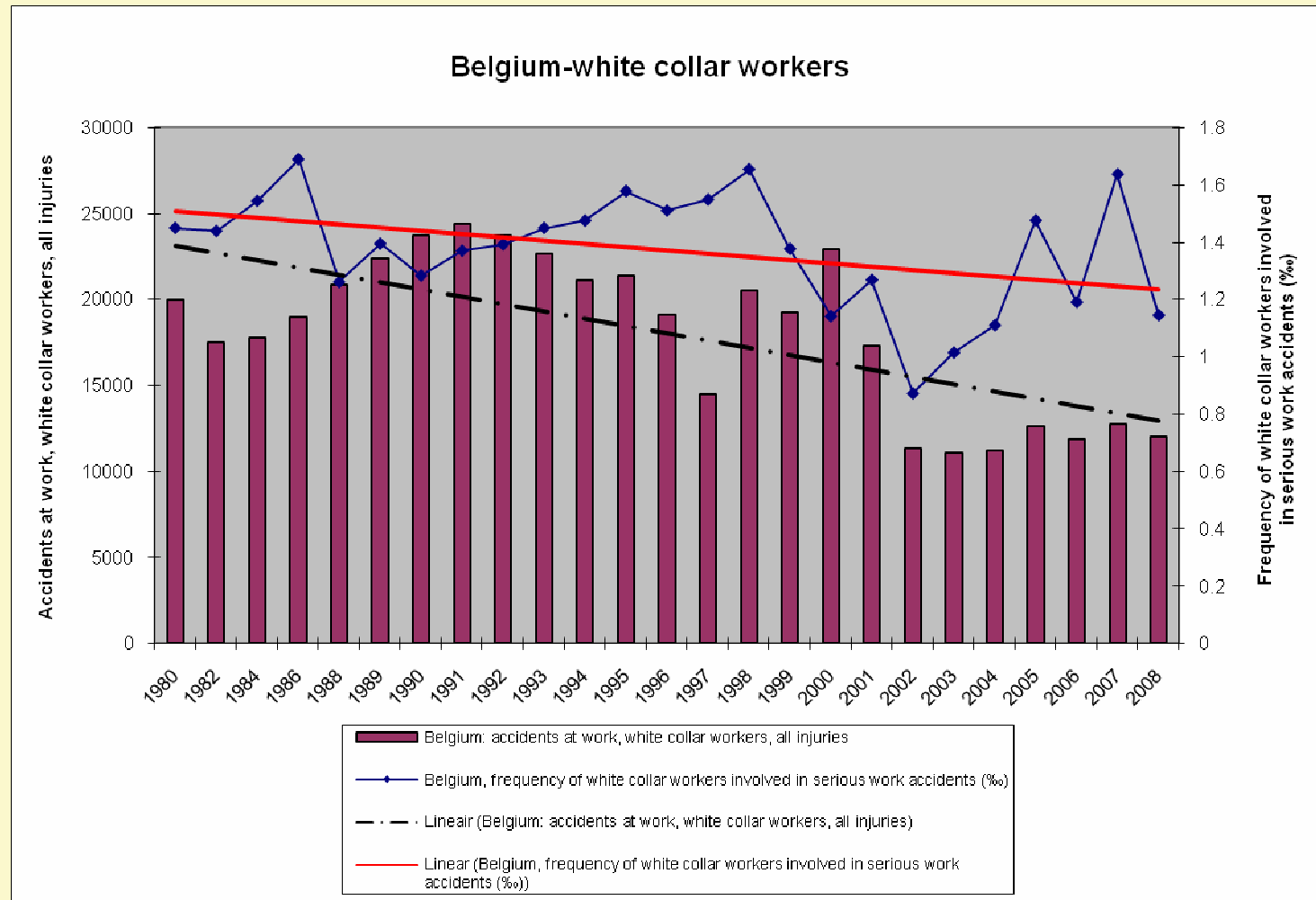


- Draft strategy 2008-2012 prepared by Ministry of labour
- Submitted for consultation to the National Labour Council, December 2008
 - National Labour Council:
 - bipartite council in labour matters
 - competence to conclude national agreements enforced by law
- In May 2009 the National Labour Council delivered his opinion on this draft strategy

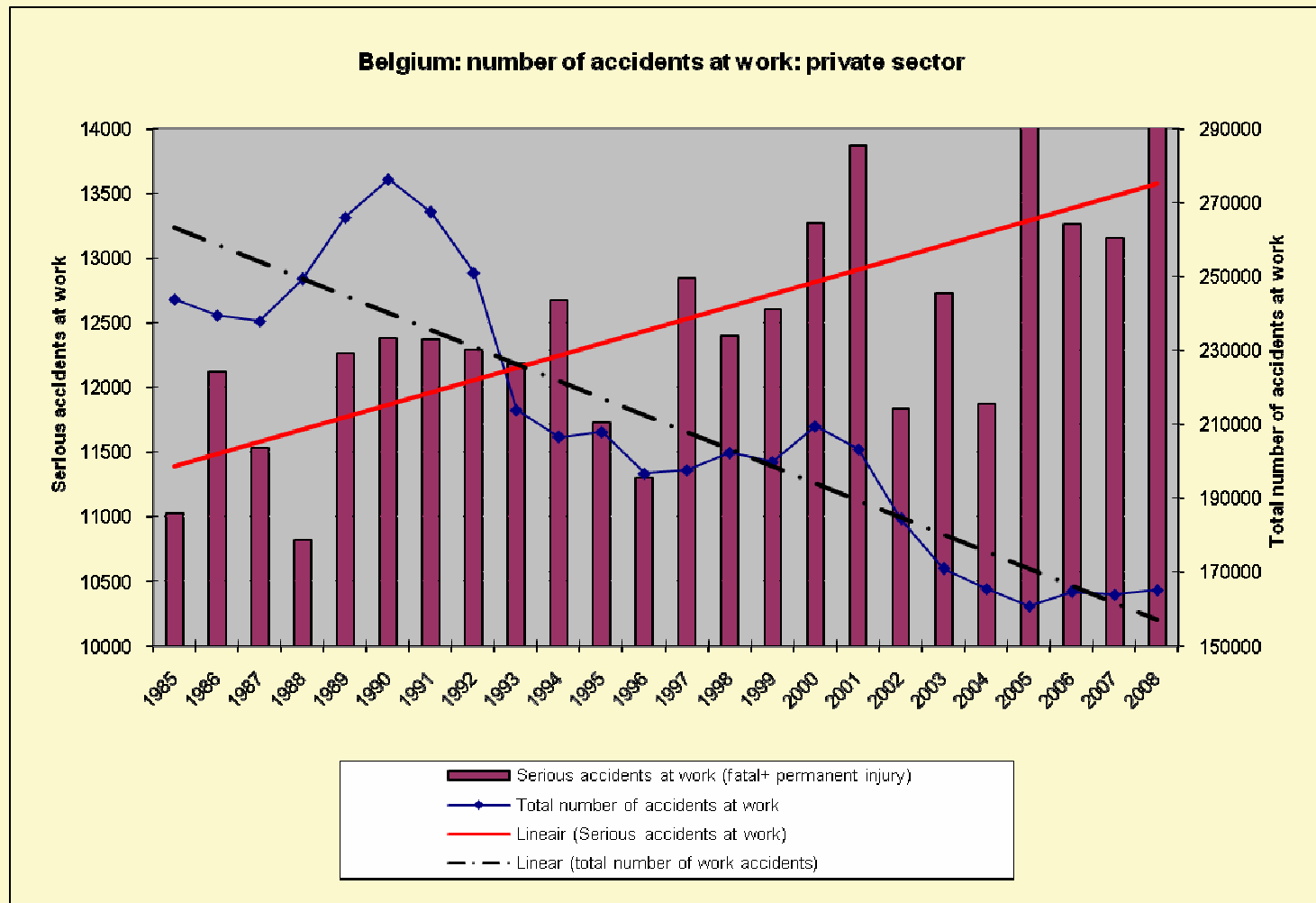
Number of global accidents at work compared to serious accidents at work



Number of global accidents at work compared to serious accidents at work



Situation in Belgium



Proposals national labour council

- Workers and employers agreed unanimously to the proposed target
- Target would not be acceptable as outcome, if only in reported accidents at work causing temporary incapacities for work
- Pleaded to put forward as well more broad and developed qualitative targets, not only a focus on a single general quantitative indicator

Proposals national labour council

- The proposed measures in the draft plan were not sufficient to reach the proposed targets
- Proposed unanimously to develop a more ambitious plan
- Focus on a set of strategical goals and actions

Proposals national labour council

- To restore the capacity of the labour inspection dealing with health and safety matters back to a European average
 - SLIC audit: “The average in Belgium is 23.000 workers/inspector. It is the second lowest among the Slic member states”
 - The SLIC-average is 10.000 workers/inspector
 - Reference was made to Ontario, Canada where a reduction of the accident rate with 20% was reached in 4 years thanks to an increase of inspection staff from 250 to 450 FTE staff members

Proposals national labour council

- Actions of inspections in branches
 - good prior consultation and cooperation with social partners to select priorities and targets
 - phased actions
 - first phase: information and sensibilisation via social partners and authorities
 - in order to achieve voluntary compliance to major safety standards
 - second phase: moving to a more repressive inspection approach

Proposals national labour council

- To reinforce the added value of external prevention services to health and safety in companies
 - replacing standard medical examinations by more effective preventive actions if needed and wanted by social partners
- Supporting SME's in prevention and risk evaluation
- A demonstrative and leading role for public authorities in including high level safety standards and demands in public tenders and subcontracting

Proposals national labour council

- Supporting the role of mid level and lower management in reaching health and safety targets
- A reform in the insurance-systems for accidents at work, enforcing stronger no claims-bonus system in insurance fees
- A public bench marking for the rate of work accidents for companies

Actual situation

- Proposals of the National Labour Council were welcomed by the Minister of Labour
- First steps have been made to put these proposals into actions
- Major progress can only be expected next to decisions on the 2010 state budget