

# The government can't fix the troubles without of social partners support

An example of no so good practice from Romania

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# Context

We are now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the period 2007- 2012 and it's suppose that every state have at the minimum clear ideas to implement European Strategy on health and safety at national level. In Romania the last national strategy on health and safety was sated up for the period 2004-2007 so seems to be necessary a new document in the order to cover present period.

Until to day even that the debate around the proposal are running since one year the new strategy wasn't approved .

# Topics of Discussion

- Tentative
- Obstacles
- Subjects of disputes
- Positions
- Present status
- Options
- Next step

# Tentative

- First proposal was delivered by government in 2008 October 16<sup>th</sup> only few weeks before the end of it's mandate. After the reaction critic of the social partners the discussion was suspended.
- The new government restart the debate in May 2009 with same new promises but without of any concrete improvement; an tripartite working group was seated up but last discussion was in first decade of August.

# Obstacles

- Political changes and disputes
- The low importance accorded to this subject by government
- The missing of coordination between specialized institutions concerned
- The unbalanced level of expertise between social partners and governmental bodies

# Main subjects of disputes

- The presence of social partners in the management the fond for work accidents and professional diseases.
- The unfair double status of occupational physicians. (state public health inspector and service provider)
- The unclear and low preventive dimension of Labor Inspection and “Insurance fond for work accidents and professional diseases” activities
- The excessive political dimension of the key position in the public institution concerned (ex. Labor Inspection)

# Government position

- Want to keep the control of all institution
- Try to give a decorative role to social partners
- Don't agree radical changes

# Social partners position

- Reclaim more concrete actions.
- Want to play an active role and to be involved in decisional process
- Trade unions:
  - ◆ insist for effective training and to increase the role of reps
  - ◆ Ask for more effectively and neutrality from labor inspection
- Employers organizations:
  - ◆ Ask for more support in prevention
  - ◆ Insist for incentive measures and economic facilities



# Present status

- The both social partners start already working together for own proposal of strategy
- To have chance for success the national health and safety strategy should involve together all the actors – governmental bodies, social partners, academic community and NGOs

# Options

- The government should adapt the proposal according to social partners and the other actors reactions.
- Could be open the debate starting from the document seated up by the social partners

# Next Steps

- We wait for a new government
- We hope to adopt a new strategy that will cover the period 2010 - 2012 with the support of all the concerned parties