



# Expert meeting on the costs of accidents and ill-health at work

## The need for an EU-28 estimate

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

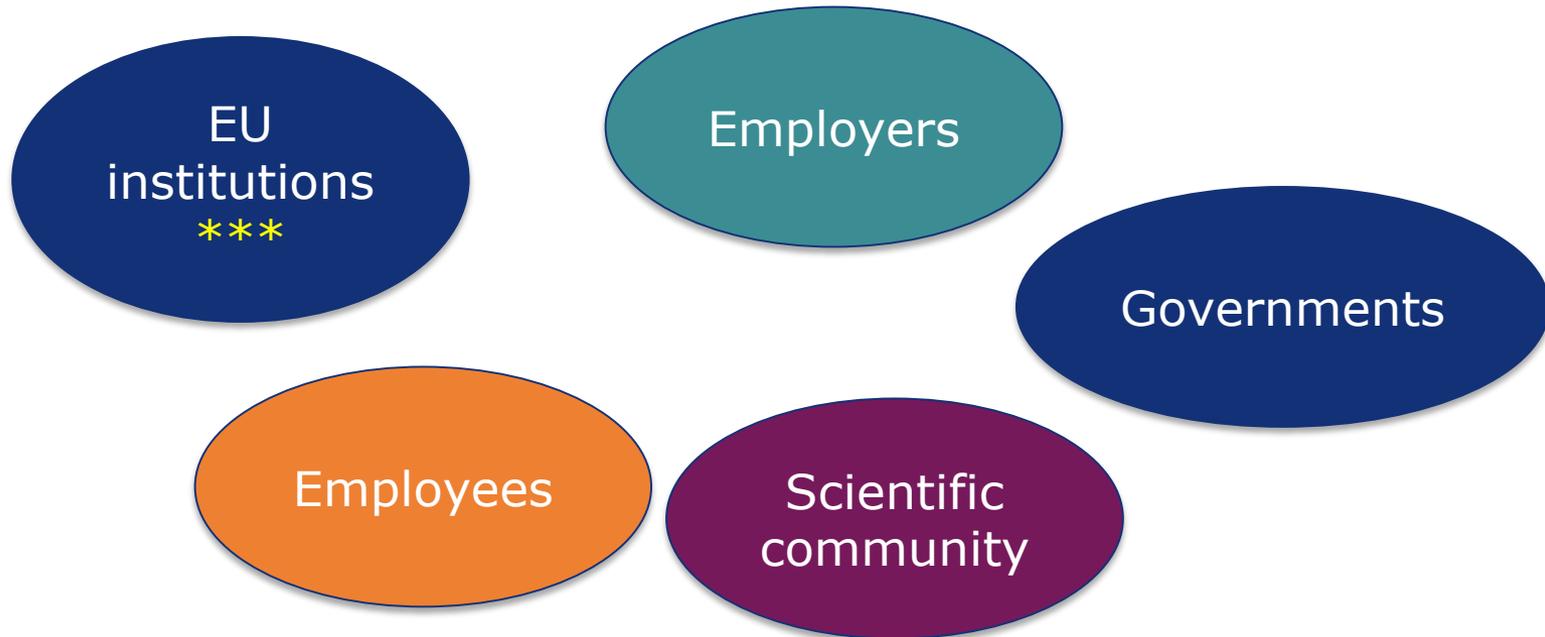
**DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion**

**Health, Safety and Hygiene at work**

*Bilbao, 19th of June 2014*

# Need for an EU-28 estimate...

*...from whose perspective?*



# Taking the EU Commission perspective...

## Article 153 of the TFEU:

- ❖ *Improvement of the working environment in order to protect workers' health and safety (the aim: **reduction of occupational accidents and diseases, consequently the reduction in costs related to poor OSH**)*
- ❖ *To this end, it foresees the adoption of **directives setting minimum requirements***
- ❖ *Member States are allowed to maintain or introduce more stringent protective measures*

# What reinforces the need for an EU-28 estimate?

- *SMART Regulation*
- *Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT)*
  - Sees if the aims of EU legislation are being met efficiently and effectively
  - Detects regulatory burdens, gaps and inefficiencies
  - Identifies opportunities for simplification
  - Proposals for revision/repealing of legislation where appropriate
- *The development of legislative initiatives (Impact Assessments)*



*Need to develop the evidence base, including data on costs and benefits related to the EU legislation*

# What projects in the OSH policy field will benefit from an EU-28 estimate?

- *EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 (COM(2014)322 final);*
- *Ex-post evaluations of the OSH legislation based on Article 17a of the Council Directive of 12 June 1989 ➡ in the context of SMART Regulation agenda and REFIT;*
- *Impact assessments.*

# EU Strategic Framework on H&S 2014-2020

*Identifies three main challenges:*

- To improve the implementation of existing health and safety rules;
- To improve the prevention of work-related diseases;
- To take account of the ageing of the EU's workforce.

# EU Strategic Framework on H&S 2014-2020

*These challenges are to be addressed through seven strategic objectives:*

- *Further consolidating national health and safety strategies;*
- *Providing practical support to small and micro enterprises to help them better comply with OSH rules;*
- *Improving enforcement by Member States;*
- *Simplifying existing legislation;*
- *Addressing the ageing of the European workforce;*
- *Reinforcing coordination with international organisations;*
- ***Improving statistical data collection to have better evidence and developing monitoring tools*** ➡ *before 2016, examine options to improve information on costs and benefits in the area of OSH*

# Ex-post evaluation – general information

- *New five-yearly exercise under the Framework Directive, but first exercise covering period 2007 to 2012*
- *Evaluation of 24 EU Directives on health and safety at work according to the criteria of **relevance, effectiveness, coherence***
- *Under the effectiveness criterion need to study to what extent the legal framework has contributed to the reduction in accidents at work, occupational diseases and work-related ill-health across the EU, what are the **costs and benefits related to the EU legislation***

# Ex-post evaluation – directives concerned

**Directive 89/391/EEC** of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work (**Framework Directive**) and **23 daughter directives**, including:

- **General Directives**, such as the **Workplaces Directive** (89/654/EEC) or **Work equipment Directive** (2009/104/EC);
- **Sector-specific Directives** such as the **Construction sites Directive** (92/57/EEC) ;
- **Worker-type specific Directives** such as the **Young workers Directive** (94/33/EC);
- **Hazard-specific Directives** such as the **Physical agents Directives**, the **Chemical agents Directive**, the **Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive**, the **Asbestos Directive** or the **Biological agents Directive**.

# Other projects

- *Impact assessments*
  - Key tool to ensure that Commission initiatives and EU legislation are prepared on the basis of transparent, comprehensive, robust and balanced evidence;
  - Emphasis put on the costs and benefits of the policy options;
  - Follow-up of the OSH ex-post evaluation.



European  
Commission

***Thank you for your attention.***