



European Trade Union Confederation [ETUC]
Confédération européenne des syndicats [CES]

Ensuring healthy workplaces through safe maintenance

ETUC highlights

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Healthy lives demands healthy workplaces

- 25% of European workers believe that their safety or their health is at risk because of their work – a figure which shows that working conditions in Europe are not improving adequately
- Even though manufacturing employment across Europe is shrinking, losing ground to service jobs, exposure to traditional physical hazards - noise, dangerous goods, heavy lifting, etc. – has not gone away. Maintenance is a key area of concern: 15-20% of accidents/10-15% fatal accidents
- Impact of the crisis: intensity of work increasing, fragmentation of value-chains, and financial constraints increase dangers in maintenance management



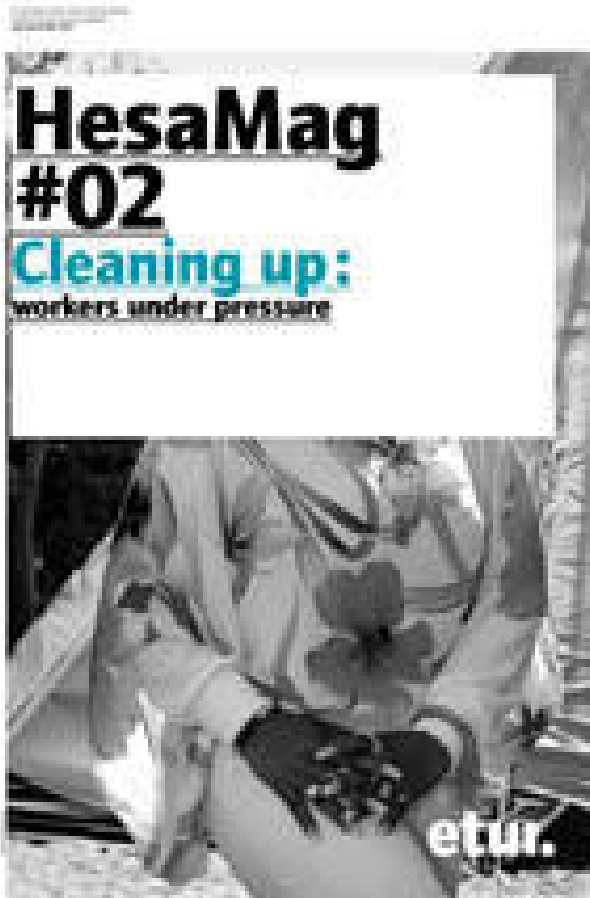
Channelling trade union engagement



- Active support from ETUC for campaign from conception to conclusion
- Importance of tripartite model to ensure worker involvement at all stages
- EU Project Partner (+ 7 ETUFs)
- National activities with FOPs
- Awareness raising and exchanging of good practice
- Internal exchanges within the Workers Interest Group



Shining the light on more precarious workers



- Publication of special HesaMag on contract cleaning workers in Europe
- Identifying union campaigns addressing their health and safety concerns to improve working conditions



Good practice awards recognise importance of worker participation

What the Good Practice Awards Jury was looking for

In selecting the examples, the Jury was looking for solutions that:

- are relevant to the theme of Safe Maintenance;
- are aimed at the workplace;
- tackle risks at source;
- improve working conditions in general;
- promote a structured, risk management based approach to maintenance;
- demonstrate successful implementation and real improvements;
- show effective participation and involvement of the workforce and their representatives;
- show that account was taken of the diversity of the workforce;
- are sustainable over time;
- go beyond simple compliance with all relevant legislative requirements;
- are potentially transferable to other workplaces, including those in other Member States, and to SMEs;
- are current, i.e. the example should be recent or not widely publicised;
- show that activities such as providing information and training, or increasing awareness about occupational risks, were part of a wider risk management approach.

- ETUC welcomes strong recognition of the importance of worker safety representatives and unions in developing safe maintenance strategies
- This should be taken up next EU OSH strategy 2013-20



Good practice awards recognise trade unions as drivers in safe maintenance



Healthy firefighters (Sweden)

- *From the booklet:*

“The participation of workers, union representatives and management was essential in developing the model of risk assessment and the preventive measures. The continual and repeated risk assessments led to the identification of additional risks of exposure to potentially harmful substances. This, in turn, led to more frequent, constructive input into the development of measures to remove or reduce exposure.”

