

## **EU-OSHA workshop. Workplace risks to reproductivity : from knowledge to action**

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you today to this EU-OSHA workshop on the topic: "Workplace risks to reproductivity: from knowledge to action." We are approximately 50 participants, from various organizations, including the Institutes participating in the EU-OSHA topic centre who prepared the report being presented today, representatives of the Directorate General for Employment, social affairs and inclusion and other DGs of the European Commission, from the European Chemicals Agency, the World Health organization, representatives of member states, of ministries and national agencies and institutes active in occupational health, representatives of trade unions and other stakeholders and fellow scientists. The seminar will present the report prepared by EU-OSHA and its partners on this topic: Workplace risks to reproductivity.

As you may know, occupational risks due to reprotoxic substances and more generally endocrine disruptors are a topic of high interest for Anses and for French health and prevention authorities.

Regarding endocrine disruptors, the French national strategy is currently established in the framework of the national plan for environmental health, with the participation of ministries of environment, health, labour, as well as social partners and main public institutions in the field of occupational health.

For occupational health, the main objectives are the prioritization of substances for risk assessment and management, including regulatory assessment within the framework of the REACH regulation, the drawing up of occupational exposure limits (atmospheric and biological), recommendations for substitution of EDs, and the improvement of knowledge through specific programmes of research.

Last year, Anses conducted a complete human health risk assessment for bisphenol A and published reports on BPA and substitutes. Several endocrine disruptors are under prioritization for risk assessment, like

some phenol compounds, phthalates, perfluorinated or polybrominated compounds.

Anses supports research through a National research program for environmental and occupational health, with funding from the Ministry for ecology and the Ministry for labour.

This programme which is open to foreign research teams, allows the reinforcement of links between research and expertise, and knowledge production in relation with risk assessment.

Over the last two years, 28 research projects on chemical substances were funded, including 10 projects on endocrine disruptors. These projects concern in particular the toxicity of BPA substitutes, low dose effects or combined effects of endocrine disruptors like nonylphenols or phthalates, or the use of new methods like toxicogenomics in order to classify and prioritize endocrine disruptors.

Anses manages also for the ministry of ecology a specific national research program on endocrine disruptors. It focuses in particular on occupational exposure to products containing endocrine disruptors or reprotoxic substances, and on the risks for vulnerable populations like pregnant women at work.

Research priorities identified at the national level are generally the same as those identified in the report of EU-OSHA on “Priorities for occupational safety and health research in Europe: 2013 -2020.”

Today’s workshop is a good opportunity to discuss these priorities, but also to emphasize recommendations for research, public policy, surveillance, etc., and to identify apparent weaknesses in order to make proposals to be adopted by the research and prevention programmes of the European Union and its Member States.

I wish you a fruitful workshop and I thank you for your attention.