

Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth

Gothenburg, 17 November 2017

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

HEALTHY, SAFE AND WELL-ADAPTED WORK ENVIRONMENT AND DATA PROTECTION

‘Workers have the right to a high level of protection of their health and safety at work. Workers have the right to a working environment adapted to their professional needs and which enables them to prolong their participation in the labour market.[...]’

Principle 10, European Pillar of Social Rights

WHAT IS THE COMMISSION DOING?

Making the EU health and safety framework future-proof, ensuring a level playing field across Europe and improving compliance and enforcement on the ground

Why?

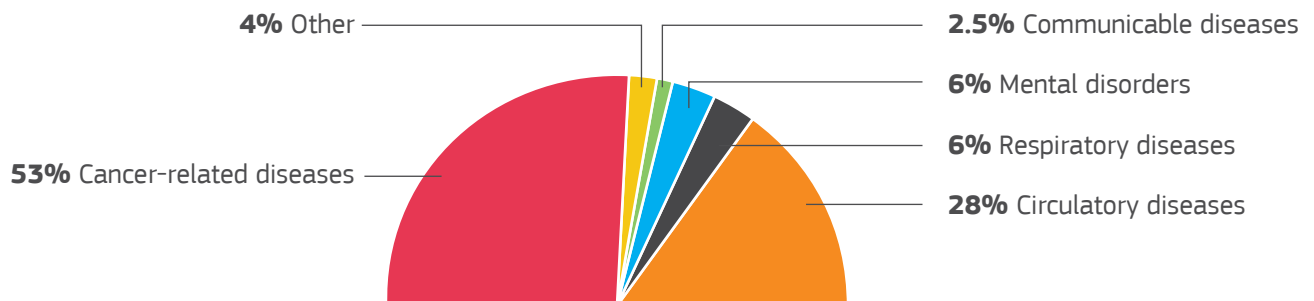
- ▶ EU legislation on health and safety at work has existed for over 25 years.
- ▶ The EU has been a frontrunner in high standards of worker protection against health and safety risks at work.
- ▶ To keep this up, the Commission is taking action to modernise relevant EU legislation and policy.

What?



- ▶ Two-year programme for removing or updating outdated provisions in six Directives:
 - ▷ Display screen equipment (90/270)
 - ▷ Occupational safety and health signs (92/58)
 - ▷ Biological agents (2000/54)
 - ▷ Medical assistance on board (92/29)
 - ▷ Workplaces (89/654)
 - ▷ Personal protective equipment (89/656)

- Improvement of EU rules on health and safety will further improve **workers’** protection at the workplace
- **Businesses**, especially small ones, will benefit from clearer and simpler rules to follow, while the administrative burden will be reduced
- **Better compliance** with the legislation will be ensured



Cancer is the first cause of work-related deaths in the EU



Why?

-  ▶ Cancer is the first cause of work-related deaths in the EU.
-  ▶ Need for limiting exposure to cancer-causing substances at work, by setting binding exposure limits.

The Commission's actions




-  ▶ Two proposals — in March 2016 and January 2017 — amending the **Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive**¹ and addressing another 20 substances and mixtures.
 - ▶ Proposals will save at least 100 000 lives over the next 50 years.
 - ▶ Work on new or stricter exposure limits continues.
-  ▶ Four Commission Directives as part of the **Chemical Agents Directive**² which establishes indicative exposure limits to protect workers against chemical agents at work.
 - ▶ Work on additional sets of indicative exposure limits is ongoing.

HELPING BUSINESSES TO COMPLY WITH EU HEALTH AND SAFETY RULES

Why?



The Commission provides help:

-  ▶ By giving guidance for employers with practical tips to facilitate risk assessment and foster effective implementation of rules.
-  ▶ By giving advice on how to deal with rapidly increasing risks such as psychosocial, ergonomic or ageing related-risks.
-  ▶ By increasing the availability of free online tools that help small and micro-enterprises in conducting risk assessments.

1/ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=URISERV:c11137&from=EN>
2/ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:01998L0024-20140325>