Occupational Health and Safety in Europe
Fostering Healthy Workplaces for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

Tuesday 24th February 2015
NH Hotel du Grand Sablon
Brussels
Overview

Workplace accidents in the EU claim more than 3 million victims per year and over 4,000 workers die due to serious accidents, according to a report issued by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (OSHA). The human suffering, as well as the economic burden of poor occupational safety and health is unacceptably high. Positive workplaces not only increase workers' health, safety and wellbeing, but also companies' productivity and competitiveness. Studies have shown that for each Euro invested in prevention the return ranges between 1.29 and 2.89 Euros.

Although the positive impact of healthy workplaces on growth is well known, some companies, small enterprises and organisations are still facing challenges in adopting preventive measures. Recent data shows that one in four workers in Europe report work-related stress, triggered by high work intensity, family-work unbalance, harassment or monotonous tasks. As a result, their productivity decreases, while the risk of accidents and mistakes is higher. Long-term psychological pressure can also lead to musculoskeletal or cardiovascular diseases. Thus, psychosocial risks need to be addressed at EU and national level to boost the continent's competitiveness and inclusive growth.

In April 2014, EU-OSHA launched the “Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress” campaign to raise awareness and provide practical advice and support for employers' and workers' representatives, managers and workers. Also this year, building on previous strategies and consultations, the European Commission adopted the next Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 so as to better protect European workers from accidents and diseases. The Framework aims to better implement current health and safety rules, as well to strengthen the prevention of work-related diseases. An evaluation on existing occupational health and safety rules is ongoing and the results are expected to be released by the end of 2015.

This international symposium will provide an invaluable opportunity to discuss how the number of occupational accidents can be reduced especially in high risk industrial work environments, and consider an effective cross-border strategy to prevent psychosocial risks and other work-related diseases. The symposium will allow delegates to examine and assess projects, tools and best practices tackling occupational safety and health issues in Europe so as to create healthy workplaces and foster growth. Public Policy Exchange welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders to exchange ideas and engage in thought-provoking topical debate.

("(...) Work-related stress not only takes a high toll on employees' well-being, but also adversely affects the overall performance of European companies. Stress can and should be managed, and employers and workers organisations must work together to better protect and promote mental health at work. I welcome the fact that this new campaign will focus on reducing the damage done by stress at work."

- László Andor, former EU Commissioner for European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

April 2014

Why Attend?

- Examine the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 and assess the progress made thus far
- Assess the psychosocial risks in the workplace and their impact on productivity and competitiveness
- Explore the ways to reduce occupational accidents and work-related diseases in high-risk industrial sectors
- Discuss ways of improving implementation of existing health and safety rules across EU
- Share best practices and tools for creating positive workplaces and unlocking workers' potential

Who Should Attend?

- Mental Health Practitioners
- HR Professionals
- Occupational Health Professionals
- Organisational Development Professionals
- Employment Agencies
- National and Local Administrations
- NGOs
- Safety and Health at Work Agencies
- Health and Safety Councils
- Health and Safety Managers
- Training Managers
- Recruitment Professionals
- Psychosocial Research Centres
- Psychiatric Organisations
- Institutes of Psychiatry and Neurology
- Stress Related Organisations
- Ministries of Health
- Mental Health Commissions
- Mental Health Centres
- Equal Opportunities Officers
- Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Practitioners
- Disability Practitioners
- Employee Relations Advisers
- Legal Advisers
- Campaigning Organisations
- Regulatory Bodies
- Trade Union Representatives
- Social Workers and Social Services Officers
- Welfare Rights Organisations
- Academics, Researchers and Analysts

Venue and Accommodation

NH Hotel Grand Sablon, Rue Bodenbroek 2/4. B-1000 Brussels Belgium

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Programme

09:15  Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:00  Chair’s Welcome and Opening Remarks
10:10  Current EU Policy Measures for Occupational Health and Safety
   • EU Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) 2014-2020 – Understanding the Strategic Framework
   • Ensuring Cross-Border Protection of Workers
   • Assessing the Current Situation: Improving Data Collection and Monitoring Tools
   • Recommendation for Future Policy Actions
10:40  First Round of Discussions
11:10  Morning Coffee Break
11:30  Managing Psychosocial Risks in the Workplace: Unlocking Employee’s Potential
   • Tackling Bullying and Harassment to Decrease Absenteeism, Presenteeism and Stress-related Diseases
   • Effective HR Strategies for Creating Positive Work Environments: Tools for Inspection and Prevention
   • Supporting Employees in Reconciling Work and Family Life
   • Sharing Best Practices: Insights from the 2014-15 “Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress” Campaign
12:00  Second Round of Discussions
12:30  Networking Lunch
13:30  Effective Prevention of Work-Related Accidents and Diseases
   • Reducing Occupational Accidents and Work-Related Diseases in High-Risk Industrial Sectors
   • Addressing New and Emerging Risks: Nanomaterials, Hazardous Substances and Musculoskeletal Disorders
   • Recommendations for Future Action
14:00  Third Round of Discussions
14:30  Afternoon Coffee Break
14:50  Improving Implementation of Existing Health and Safety Rules across EU
   • Understanding the Return on Prevention for Creating a Positive Workplace
   • Supporting SMEs and micro Enterprises in Better Complying with OHS rules
   • Promoting Decent Working Conditions by Strengthening Labour Inspection across Europe
   • Examples of Best Practice
15:20  Fourth Round of Discussions
15:50  Chair’s Summary and Closing Comments
16:00  Networking Reception
16:30  Symposium Close

**Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice**

Event Details

Date:  Tuesday 24th February 2015
Time:  10:00am – 4:30pm
Venue:  NH Hotel du Grand Sablon, Brussels

Speakers Include

✓ Oscar Vargas
Research Officer Working Conditions and Industrial Relations (WCIR), European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

✓ Andrea Fromm
Research Officer, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

✓ Kevin Myers
Deputy Chief Executive, Health and Safety Executive (HSE) UK / President, International Association of Labour Inspection (IALI)

Forthcoming Events

✓ eHealth in Europe: Empowering Patients and Offering Better Connected Healthcare Services
   27th January 2015

✓ Supporting Cultural and Creative Industries in Europe: Towards Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth
   18th February 2015

✓ Eliminating Domestic Violence in Europe: Implementing Strategies for Protection and Prevention
   25th February 2015

✓ The World’s Top Destination: Driving Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Across Europe
   17th March 2015

✓ Plugging the Sustainability Gap: Boosting the Electric Vehicle Market in Europe
   18th March 2015

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