



# EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020

## CESI Symposium

### 'New working rhythms and their impact on health'

3 June 2016, Copenhagen

**Dr Zinta Podniece**

Health and Safety Unit



European  
Commission

## **EU occupational safety and health (OSH) strategic policy framework**

- A comprehensive body of EU legislation covering the most significant occupational risks and providing common definitions, structures and rules
- A series of multiannual action programmes between 1978 and 2002, followed by European strategies (covering 2002-06 and 2007-12)
- EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020



European  
Commission

## The need for policy action to improve the OSH situation in the EU

- 85% of workers satisfied with the health and safety situation in their workplace (EB 2014)
- This outcome can be attributed to the comprehensive legislation and policy actions implemented by the Union, Member States and social partners. However,
- 3 500 workers die of accidents at work and > 3 million workers are victims of a serious accident at work
- 160 000 deaths annually are attributed to work-related diseases, 95 000 of which to occupational cancer
- Costs due to work-related sick leave, work-related diseases and accidents are unacceptably high and put a heavy burden on competitiveness and social security budgets



European  
Commission

# Good OSH – good for business

- Investment in OSH contributes to the well-being of workers and is cost-effective. According to recent estimates, investments in this area can produce high ratios of return, averaging 2.24, and in a range between 1.29 and 2.895.



European  
Commission

## EU OSH Strategic Framework 2014-2020 (1)

- aims at ensuring that the EU continues to play a leading role in the promotion of high standards for working conditions both within the European Union and internationally
- in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy, it contributes to improving job quality and job satisfaction, while improving the competitiveness and productivity of European companies



European  
Commission

## EU OSH Strategic Framework 2014-2020 (2)

### Challenges:

- *Implementation of OSH legislation*
- *Prevention of work-related diseases*
- *Demographic change*

### Key objectives:

- *Consolidation of national strategies*
- *Compliance with OSH rules, MSEs*
- *Enforcement by Member States*
- *Simplification*
- *Ageing, new risks, occupational diseases*
- *Data collection*
- *International cooperation*

### EU instruments:

- *Legislation*
- *EU funds*
- *Social dialogue*
- *Communication and information*
- *Synergies with other policies*



European  
Commission

# 1<sup>st</sup> challenge: Improving the implementation record of MS

- *The scope and effectiveness of OSH management remains a challenge for micro and SMEs. They still show lower levels of compliance with rules.*
- *Effective protection of workers' health and safety has to be insured in all workplaces regardless of size.*
- *Simpler, more efficient solutions need to be put in place to take into account the situation of micro and small enterprises. This requires:*
  - *simplifying legislation where appropriate, and*
  - *providing tailored guidance and support to micro and small enterprises to facilitate risk assessment.*



European  
Commission

## 2<sup>nd</sup> challenge: Improving the prevention of work-related diseases

- *Troubles with bones, joints and muscles as well as stress, anxiety and depression are by far the most often mentioned health problems caused or worsened by work (EB 2014).*
- *Industrial application of new technologies and new work organization, despite their obvious benefits, can entail risks that need to be tested and checked (e.g. nanotechnologies, biotechnologies and green technologies).*
- *Special attention should be paid to occupational diseases, e.g. cancers, lung diseases, skin diseases, asthma and other chronic conditions, and diseases caused by asbestos*



European  
Commission

## 3<sup>rd</sup> challenge: Tackling demographic change

- *The EU population is becoming older and the working population is also ageing, as the proportion of older workers in employment increases relative to that of younger workers*
- *In order to ensure sustainable social security, an extension of working life is necessary. This will require appropriate working conditions throughout the entire working life*
- *Successfully prolonging working careers depends on appropriate adaptation of workplaces and work organisation, including working time, workplace accessibility and workplace interventions targeted at older workers. Innovative ICT products and services can help*
- *Reintegration and rehabilitation measures allowing for early return to work after an accident or disease are needed to avoid early exclusion from the labour market*



European  
Commission

# The key strategic objectives

- 1. Further consolidate national strategies*
- 2. Facilitate compliance with OSH legislation, particularly by micro and small enterprises*
- 3. Better enforce OSH legislation by Member States*
- 4. Simplify existing legislation*
- 5. Address the ageing of the workforce, emerging new risks, prevention of work related and occupational diseases*
- 6. Improve statistical data collection and develop the information base*
- 7. Better coordinate EU and international efforts to address OSH and engage with international organisations*



European  
Commission

## EU instruments

- *Legislation*
- *EU funds*
- *Social dialogue*
- *Communication and information*
- *Synergies with other policy areas*



European  
Commission

# Implementation

- *Framework for action, cooperation and exchange of good practice– implementation requires the active collaboration of national authorities and social partners*
- *Open debate and collaboration with key stakeholders (national authorities, social partners, EU institutions, specialised committees – ACSH, SLIC – the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work ...)*
- *Review in light of the results of the ex-post evaluation of the EU acquis, progress on its implementation*
- *Monitoring, associating EU institutions and relevant stakeholders.*



European  
Commission

# Thank you for your attention

More information:

EU OSH Strategic Framework 2014-2020

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=151&langId=en>

EU actions in the area of health and safety at work

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=148&langId=en>