



Health and Safety at Work is Everybody's Business and is part of the overall strategy for modern employment and social systems in the EU

***Making EU legislation on health and safety at work
future-proof***

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The role of the EU in the field of social policy

- *The EU implements its social mission and objectives on the basis of Article 153 TFEU*
- *"to support and complement the activities of the Member States" to improve working conditions, social security and social protection, **workers' health and safety** (by means of Social Policy Directives setting minimum requirements in the area of health and safety at work (Article 153 (2) (b) TFEU), information and consultation of workers and the integration of persons excluded from the labour market – competence to legislate and open method of coordination*
- *In line with the principle of subsidiarity, Member States **are primarily competent** for the definition of their employment and social policy.*
- *EU social acquis = EU primary law + secondary legislation (more than 50 directives)+ soft law (e.g. recommendations)*
- ***The European Pillar of Social Rights** - A guiding document – reference for a renewed process of convergence towards higher living standards building on the existing EU social acquis*
- *20 principles and rights at its heart grouped in three main fields*
 - **Equal opportunities and access to the labour market**
 - **Fair working conditions** (OSH is a core principle of the EU social model)
 - **Adequate and sustainable social protection**

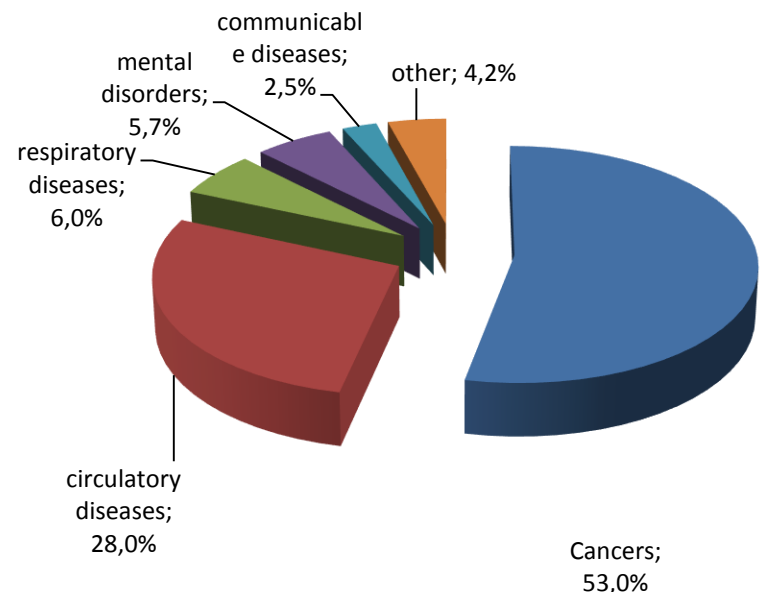
*Based on the findings of the comprehensive ex-post and REFIT evaluation of the EU OSH legislation, the **Communication on Safer and Healthier Work for All - Modernisation of the EU OSH Legislation and Policy** focus on three priority areas:*

- *Stepping up the fight against occupational cancer and exposure to chemicals*
- *Helping businesses, in particular microenterprises and SMEs, comply with OSH rules*
- *Cooperating with Member States and social partners to remove or update outdated rules and to refocus efforts on ensuring better and broader protection, compliance and enforcement on the ground*

1. Fight against occupational cancer

Cancer is the first cause of work-related deaths in the EU (53%)

- *Stepping up the fight against occupational cancer and reducing exposure to chemicals through legislative proposals accompanied by increased guidance and awareness-raising*
- *In 2016 and early 2017 the Commission adopted two proposals for amendment of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive 2004/37/EC (COM(2016)248 - political agreement reached in a triilogue between EP and Council in summer 2017 and COM (2017)11 – currently discussed in both institutions);*
- *Work on subsequent amendments of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive, with a next proposal envisaged for adoption early 2018 (consultation of social partners until 30 September 2017)*



2. Helping businesses comply with OSH rules

- *Practical guidance for employers published with the Communication*
- *Boosting the availability and use of free e-tools such as the Online interactive Risk Assessment (OiRA)*
- *Good practices, guides and tools to address issues of growing concern (psychosocial risks, MSDs, ageing) to be developed together with the EU-OSHA and the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee*

3. Cooperating with Member States and social partners to remove or update outdated rules and to refocus efforts on ensuring better and broader protection, compliance and enforcement on the ground

- *Remove or update a number of outdated EU provisions and simplify them where possible and also encourage MS to ensure a broad coverage of OSH policies as regards self-employed (full implementation of the Council Recommendation) and domestic workers (ratification of the relevant ILO Convention);*
- *Peer-review process allowing Member States to learn from each other's good practices in reducing administrative burdens in national legislation;*
- *Improving enforcement on the ground - Inspections contribute to a real prevention culture and enforcement on the ground. Tangible effects: over 20% drop in injury rates in inspected plants. Need to encourage inspections going beyond mere sanctioning. Tools: better standards and guidance for inspectors, encouraging cross-agency work, improved cooperation through the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee.*