

L'EXPERT DE LA SEMAINE

Health and Safety at Work

Jose Ramon Biosca de Sagastuy, (DG EMPL) on the Commission's new health and safety at work strategy 2007-2012.

Is it still a big issue after years of EU action?

Things have improved tremendously since the entry into force of the EU legislation in this field in 1992 but still every year there are more than 4 million accidents at work in the EU and workplace incidents resulted in around 4400 fatalities in 2004.

What progress was made?

We saw real improvements, particularly from MS who drew up strategies and national action-plans which were more focussed. For the 2000-2004 period there was a 17% drop in fatal accidents at work in the EU-15. The rate of accidents leading to absences of more than three days also fell more than 20%.

Is there still room for improvement?

Certainly, although the situation has got better, 35% of workers on average feel that their job puts their health at risk. Improvements are also not evenly spread. Some groups are still overexposed to risks, including young, older and migrant workers. Certain sectors are still particularly dangerous, including construction, agriculture, transport health and social services. We are also seeing an increase in occupational diseases such as musculoskeletal disorders, infections and illnesses caused by psychological strain.

What about the new strategy?

Our overall objective is to reduce by 25% the total incidence rate of accidents at work per 100,000 workers in the EU-27.

How will you do this?

Our strategy consists of a number of elements which aim at stimulating the definition and implementation of national strategies, that based on a detailed evaluation of the national situation, establish quantitative objectives for reducing the incidence of occupational accidents and illnesses. We will focus on the most common risks and the most vulnerable workers. We also want to improve and simplify existing legislation as well as to enhance its implementation in practice through non-binding instruments such as, guidelines to help companies to implement legislation, exchange of good practices, awareness-raising campaigns and better information and training. It also focuses on mainstreaming of health and safety at work in other policy areas (education, public health, research) and finding new synergies and improved identification and evaluation of potential new risks. It requires the commitment of all parties, national authorities, social partners, insurance companies, etc, and the European Agency for safety and health at work.

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CHEZ NOUS

Un cocktail pour les certifiés

Claude Chêne, le directeur général de l'ADMIN a invité à un cocktail les premiers certifiés pour marquer le coup : 84 fonctionnaires ont réussi les tests de fin de formation "certification" et changeront de groupe de fonctions (d'assistant vers administrateur) dès qu'ils auront trouvé un poste correspondant à leur profil.

Ils étaient nombreux à répondre à l'invitation de la DG ADMIN pour un verre et des zakouskis, le 19 février dernier à Bruxelles. L'EAS — représenté par son directeur David Walker — avait affrété un mini-bus pour les collègues du Luxembourg, un geste qui fut apprécié. Un participant nous livre que, dans sa DG, sa réussite a aussi été reconnue : « Nous avons reçu un e-mail de félicitations, alors que tous les candidats de la DG ont réussi. Aujourd'hui, partager ce verre avec tout le monde, organisateurs y compris, c'est manifeste et ça me touche : c'est révélateur de notre investissement à tous. »

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Les certifiés félicités par Claude Chêne et David Walker.

Photos J.-M.T.

Developers Next

The 2007 ICT Conference

More than three hundred and fifty ICT professionals from over forty DG's, the Council and the Parliament participated in a two day IT Developers' Conference, organised by DG DIGIT. The conference featured presentations from world class experts and highlighted best practices in-house projects

This two day conference offered a mixture of plenary sessions and two parallel tracks, one zooming in on modelling actions and the other on code writing trends and best practices.

Francisco García Morán, Director-General of DIGIT opened the conference and Ben Forta (the Coldfusion guru) highlighted the latest possibilities for improved user interaction and rapid application development for web solutions.

Massimo Pezzini, the Gartner analyst, gave a keynote presentation entitled "SOA down to earth" touching upon the do's and don'ts in Service Oriented Architecture. The conference also featured Floyd Marinescu, the founder of the



A large number of colleagues appreciated the conference

world famous developers' website <<http://www.theserverside.com>> and Rod Johnson the father of the open source framework 'Spring', one of the top ten leading authorities in the Java world. Frédéric Bon gave an excellent keynote speech about the future fascinating world of Web 2.0.

This two day developer conference also stressed the growing importance of Open Source in the developer envi-

ronment via contributions from FLOSS researcher Rishab Ghosh, the IDABC unit (DIGIT 01) and DIGIT A3 (Corporate Infrastructure Solutions for Information Systems). There were many more very interesting contributions covering:

- the Rational Unified Process
- Enterprise Architecture
- the European Parliament's ICT architecture
- identity and access management
- interoperability from the MS-Office environment
- enterprise content management
- whether SAP (the engine behind ABAC) is ready for SOA

All the presentations are available on <<http://www.cc.cec/CITnet/>>.

Henrik Hololei, head of V.-P. Kallas' cabinet, closed this very successful two day developers' conference with a session positioning ICT in the e-Commission landscape and stressing the importance of information and communication technologies for the future of Europe and our institution.

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