



# ***Safer and Healthier Work for All - Modernisation of the EU OSH Legislation and Policy***

***Communication from the Commission***

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

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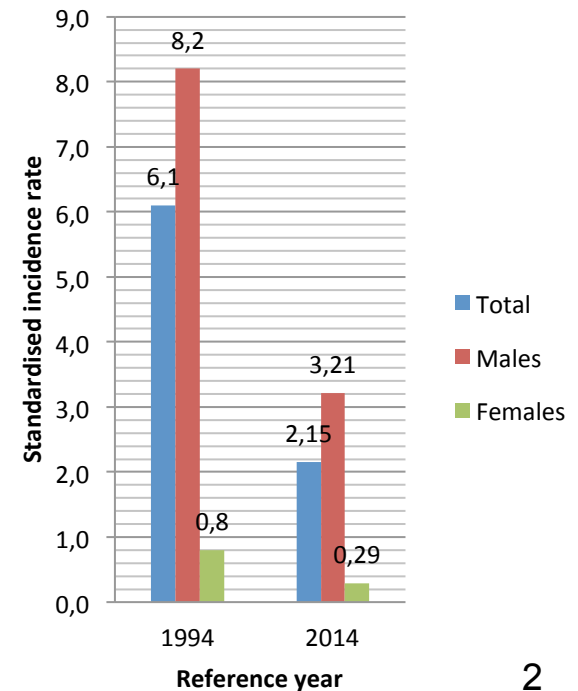
Employment,  
Social Affairs  
and Inclusion

# Safer and Healthier Work for All - Modernisation of the EU OSH Legislation and Policy

## Background/Context

*"25 years of experience in OSH policy at EU level allow us to draw lessons for the future. Modern OSH policy must consist of clear, up-to-date rules at EU and national level which are effectively applied on the ground. The Commission wants to step up cooperation with Member States and stakeholders to create healthy and safe workplaces for all."*

**Standardised incidence rate for fatal accidents at work, 1994 compared with 2014, EU-15.**



Source: Eurostat, ESAW, Data for the NACE common branches

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## Background/ Context

- Evaluation of the EU Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) legislation for the period 2007-2012, based on Article 17a of the Framework Directive 89/391/EEC;
- EU OSH Strategic Framework 2014-2020



## Ex-post evaluation of the EU OSH Directives – main findings:

*Directives remain mostly **relevant**, but **challenges persist**:*

- *A decrease in incidence of accidents could be observed over the evaluation period, work-related ill-health, in particular the burden of **occupational cancer** remains high;*
- *A need to **better tackle issues of growing concern**, such as work-related **MSDs** and **psychosocial** risks or work-force **ageing**, by exploiting the full potential of the OSH framework;*
- *A need to **update outdated provisions, providing for simplification** whenever possible;*
- *A need to **improve the compliance of SMEs**, in particular of **microenterprises**, by inter alia allowing for solutions aiming at **reducing administrative burden**;*
- *A need to analyse and explain the links between the **OSH legislation and the REACH Regulation**;*
- *A need to improve **monitoring tools**.*



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*Aims at tackling the OSH challenges identified by proposing actions along 3 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.*



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*Stepping up the fight against occupational **cancer** and reducing exposure to **chemicals** through **legislative proposals** accompanied by increased **guidance** and **awareness-raising**:*

- *Further amendment of the **Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive**, CMD (Directive (EU) 2017/2398; COM (2017)11; COM (2018)171); work on subsequent amendments*
- *Fourth list of indicative limit values in the **Chemical Agents Directive**, CAD (adopted 31/01/2017); work on fifth list*
- *Healthy Workplaces EU-OSHA Campaign on dangerous substances 2018-2019.*



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*Helping businesses comply with OSH rules:*

- *Focus on micro and small enterprises;*
- *Practical **guidance** for employers published with the Communication;*
- *Practical guides and **tools** (with EU-OSHA), including further development of OiRA, including a call on Member States;*
- *Identify **good practices** with help of Member States;*



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***Modernising EU OSH legislative framework, better implementation:***

- *Update of **technical annexes** (regulatory procedure with scrutiny):*
  - Personal Protective Equipment Directive
  - Medical Treatment on Board Vessels Directive
  - Biological Agents Directive
- **Peer review:**
  - use of risk assessment web-based tools (Dublin, 2017)
  - efficient transposition, implementation and enforcement (Copenhagen, June)





# Thank you for your attention!

**Where to find the documents:**

**COM(2017)12, SWD(2017)9, SWD(2017)10**

**[http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2709)**

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