Basic information

1998/2015(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Safety, hygiene and health at work: Community programme 1996-2000. Reports included **Subject** 4.15.15 Health and safety at work, occupational medicine	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee for opinion**	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	SOLTWEDEL-SCHÄFER Irene Barbara Lilia (V)	23/04/1998
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy		
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		
	FEMM Women's Rights		
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/01/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0728	Summary
30/03/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/01/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
26/01/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0050/1999	
25/02/1999	Debate in Parliament		
25/02/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/2015(COS)

Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/4/09657

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0050/1999 OJ C 153 01.06.1999, p. 0003	26/01/1999	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0142/1999 OJ C 153 01.06.1999, p. 0016-0055	25/02/1999	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0728	07/01/1998	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0729	07/01/1998	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0511	03/09/1998	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2003)0346	12/06/2003	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(2004)0539	05/08/2004	Summary

Safety, hygiene and health at work: Community programme 1996-2000. Reports included

1998/2015(COS) - 25/02/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The Parliament adopted its resolution on the various reports on safety, hygiene and health protection at work drafted by Outi OJALA (GUE/NGL, Finland). Parliament considers it important that the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work and the Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs should strengthen their bilateral co-operation and exchange information, e.g. by holding joint meetings. It is concerned that women make up only a small proportion of the committee's members and recommends that the appointment procedure be changed so that both sexes are equally represented. It urges the Commission to monitor closely the implementation and application of legislation and proposes that the social partners should be involved in this connection; the Commission should give proper consideration to the impact of such legislation on industry. A plan for the harmonisation and evaluation of activities of Member States' authorities, as suggested among others by the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC), and a recommendation for competence criteria and training for employees in the workplace are proposed. The Parliament calls upon the Commission, together with the advisory committee, to draft a strategy and guidelines for the application of the directives. It also calls on the Commission to investigate how co-operation with NGOs can be developed and better use made of their know-how. It urges the Commission to : - promote the best working practice with regard to asbestos as laid down in existing directives and to call for a ban on the marketing, production and use of asbestos in all its forms in the near future; - broaden the scope of the cancer directive gradually so as to cover the substances listed as potentially carcinogenic by the IARC; - expedite the directives on physical factors, scaffolding and on minimum requirements in the transport

sector; - draft a proposal on the protection of outdoor workers from factors causing skin cancer. It calls urgaently for the ratification of ILO Convention 176 and the related Recommendation 183. It urges the Commission to investigate the new problem areas which are not covered by current legislation : i.e. stress, burn-out, violence and the threat of violence by customers and harassment at the workplace. It draws attention to the problems resulting from a lack of autonomy at the workplace, monotonous and repetitive work and work with narrow variety of content, all features which are typical of women's work in particular, and it calls for particular attention to be paid to the importance of ergonomics to the improvement of health and safety conditions at the workplace. The EP points to the fact that the health and safety at work of groups which now largely fall outside the scope of legislative protection, such as homeworkers and the self-employed. Lastly, it considers that health and safety at work research ought to be allocated its own budget heading in the EU's research programme.

Safety, hygiene and health at work: Community programme 1996-2000. Reports included

1998/2015(COS) - 12/06/2003 - Follow-up document

PURPOSE : To present the Annual Activity Report of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection. CONTENT : This is the 26th Annual Activity Report of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection and covers the year 2001. It was set up in 1974 to assist the Commission in the preparation and implementation of activities in the filed of safety, hygiene and health protection at work and to facilitate co-operation between the national administrations, trade unions and employers' organisations and the EU institutions. Some of the main tasks ascribed to the Committee include - to excahnge views and experience on planned regulations, - to contribute towards the development of a common approach to problems in the filed, - to draw the Commission's attention to the acquisition of new knowledge, - to implement educational and research projects, - to define action programmes regarding the prevention of accidents at work and health hazards and lastly - to inform interested parties of new Community measures In 2001 the Committee appointed the full and alternate members of the Committee who will serve from 2000-2003. The Committee met twice in 2001, on both occasions in Luxembourg. Five groups, whose work had been completed, were disbanded. They included: - Multidisciplinary services; - Musculo-skeletal disorders; - Occupational exposure levels; - Guidelines for chemical agents; - Prevention of violence at work; At the same time four groups were given a new mandate. They include: - Community Strategy 2002-2004; - Health and safety in the hospital sectors; - Fisheries sector; - Chemicals in the workplace; The Opinions adopted during the course of the plenary meeting included subjects relating to, inter alia, - Noise levels in toys; - Packaging and packaging waste; - Safety of wood working machines; - Multidisciplinary protective and preventive services and health surveillance at work; - Musculo-skeletal disorders Strategy for health and safety at work 2002-2006 - White Paper for future strategy on chemicals; - Violence at work; - Report on the European Agency for Safety and Health and Work; - Draft work programme for the Bilbao Agency for 2002. Co-operation with other bodies was also discussed. Such bodies help the Committee to monitor developments in the field of health and safety and include organisations such as the Scientific Committee for Occupational Exposure Limits to Chemical Agents, the trade Unions Technical Bureau and the International Labour Office.

Safety, hygiene and health at work: Community programme 1996-2000. Reports included

1998/2015(COS) - 03/09/1998 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to present a mid-term report on the state of activities carried out under the Community Programme on Health and Safety at Work for the period 1996-2000. CONTENT: The report is divided into two parts: the first part deals with activities over the period 1996-1998. The second part concentrates on priorities for the period 1998-2000. 1) from 1996-1998, it is considered that the following actions deserve particular attention: - the setting up of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work in Bilbao; - a proposal for a Council decision (as yet unadopted) adopting a programme of non-legislative measures to improve health and safety at work (SAFE). While awaiting adoption of the programme, the Commission has co-financed a number of preparatory and pilot projects with a view to help accomodating particular needs of small and medium-sized enterprises, to promote best practice as standard for the development of a work environment that is safe, productive and competitive, and to advance in correct and effective application of EU health and safety legislation. - the transposition and updating of existing legislative measures, notably the revision of the Chemical Agents Directive (98/24/EC), the amendment of Directive 89/655/EEC concerning minimum health and safety requirements for the use of work equipment by workers at work (extending these requirements to mobile equipment and equipment for lifting loads), and the adaptation of certain other directives to scientific and technological progress (biological agents, carcinogens); - in 1996, the rate of transposition by Member States of the Directives adopted under Article 118A was (about) 74%. This has now reached 95%. 2) the report sets out the following priorities for 1998-2000: - making legislation more effective: this involves matching correct transposition with proper implementation and practical application. To this end, the Commission will promote the greater involvement of the 9000 labour inspectors in the 15 Member States in encouraging the effective enforcement of Community law. It also intends to increase cooperation with such committees as the Advisory Committee for Health, Hygiene and Safety at Work and the Committee of Senior Labour Inspectors (SLIC) and, if necessary, propose improvements to legislation. Particular attention is given to providing guidance for SMEs on the areas of health and safety legislation relevant to them; - preparing for enlargement: the Commission, by means of the Accession Partnerships, will assess the degree of compliance of the applicant countries with the acquis and what help is required to carry out changes in areas where they don't comply; - strengthen the link with employability: in this area, the Commission sets out two main priorities. Firstly, the prevention of the 5 million accidents at work and occupational diseases which affect workers in the EU every year. Secondly, improving the employability of people with disabilities, who represent 10-12% of the EU population; - addressing new risks in working conditions at a time ofchange: the transformation of the economy into a service economy, a steady increase in the number of women in employment, the ageing of the workforce and the development of new forms of organisation of work are all trends which pose new risks to workers, such as stress. The Commission proposes putting more emphasis on the implication of these changes and the anticipation of further developments to ensure that these issues are addressed in future health and safety policies.

Safety, hygiene and health at work: Community programme 1996-2000. Reports included

1998/2015(COS) - 07/01/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: presentation of the XXIst annual activity report (1996) of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at work.
SUBSTANCE: The report outlines the activities of the Advisory Committee in 1996. The committee was set up by Decision 74/325/EEC and its task is to conduct exchanges of views regarding existing or planned rules and regulations regarding hygiene and health at work and the protection of workers and to contribute towards the development of a common approach to problems in this sector. It is also called on to define the criteria and aims of action to combat the risk of accidents at work and improve information flows to national administrations, trade unions and employers' organizations regarding Community measures in this area. It is made up of representatives of Member State governments, trade unions and employers' organizations (6 members per State). In 1996 progress made by the committee mirrored the work undertaken by the Commission in the field of social affairs. Specific working groups were set up with terms of reference in the following areas: standardization, work-related stress, occupational exposure levels, scaffolding and pregnant women at work, together with a group responsible for organizational aspects of the Advisory Committee's own operating procedures. At the end of 1996, 11 opinions were adopted in the following areas: - European schedule of occupational diseases, - exposure to asbestos, - exposure-limit values, - work-related stress, - electromagnetic radiation pre-standards, - equipment for fairgrounds and amusement parks as part of a draft standardization mandate addressed to the CEN/CENELEC, - personal protective equipment as part of the CEN/CENELEC mandate, - work programme of the Bilbao European Agency. In each of these opinions, the committee supported the proposals. In certain cases, consultation of the committee made it possible to establish a framework for future Community measures (for example review of a directive on exposure to asbestos around the year 2000), in other cases the Commission took the view that it was too early to take action (for example with regard to the European schedule of occupational diseases), while in other cases it was decided to continue examination of Commission proposals in 1997. A number of working parties were accordingly set up to consider in greater depth matters of concern to the committee regarding issues such as normalization (in cooperation with CEN/CENELEC), occupational exposure levels, scaffolding and pregnant women at work. Further developments are expected in these areas over the next few years. Finally, the report refers to cooperation by the committee with other bodies, such as the Safety and Health Commission for Mining and Other Extractive Industries, the Senior Labour Inspectors' Committee and other organizations representing the social partners and European specialized agencies. (Bilbao European Agency and the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions).

Safety, hygiene and health at work: Community programme 1996-2000. Reports included

1998/2015(COS) - 05/08/2004

The European Commission presented its 27thannual activity report of the advisory committee on safety, hygiene and health protection at work 2002.

In 2002, the Committee met on two occasions in Luxembourg, in April and November. At each meeting the Commission informed the Committee of developments with regard to all matters concerning safety, hygiene and health protection at work. The Committee adopted the annual activity report for 2001, together with two opinions which are reviewed below:

- Opinion on the Community strategy for health and safety at work (2002-2006) : following on from the opinion adopted in November 2001, the Committee's new opinion established the essential priorities for the correct implementation of the Community strategy 2002-2006. The Committee also emphasised the importance of establishing a European Risk Observatory, preparing a discussion document setting out the criteria for a possible benchmarking exercise in the field of health and safety at work, and defining indicators and ensuring that they are reliable through a rigorous examination of the credibility of existing sources or any sources that might be created. As regards possible legislation, an improvement in, and a concrete evaluation of, the way in which existing directives are applied must be undertaken by adapting evaluation reports and consolidating /simplifying existing legislation. The Committee would also welcome the rapid adoption of the new legislation currently under examination (physical agents, asbestos), adaptation of existing legislation on carcinogenic products, and amendment of the list of occupational diseases. Among the non-legislative instruments envisaged under the new strategy, the Committee emphasises the importance to be placed on the preparation of guides facilitating the implementation of directives and the need, in this connection, to develop a general approach for these instruments, identifying the users and appropriate forms of dissemination. It is also necessary to promote prevention training targeting employees, young people at school and persons attending vocational training. Special attention must also be paid to emerging risks (musculoskeletal disorders, psychosocial risks) and action to be taken in the context of the enlargement process.

- Opinion on the draft work programme for the Bilbao Agency for 2003 : the three groups welcome the fact that this year the Committee has been able to take note of the programme before its adoption by the Agency's Administrative Board. The government group fully supports the outlines and essential themes of the programme, while emphasising the importance of avoiding any duplication of work by the different institutions, given the very limited resources and the need for the various aspects of the programme to be better integrated.

The employers' group emphasises the need to find a reasonable balance between the necessarily ambitious nature of a European project and the associated risk of aiming too high. The group considers the objective very ambitious, in particular regarding the Agency's communication strategy, but the first thing should be to ensure that it corresponds to the right actors, the priorities of European policy and the available resources.

The workers' group supports certain remarks concerning the work programme, with which it is also generally in agreement.

Lastly, at its meeting on 13 November 2002, the Committee adopted its work programme for 2003, which reflects the indicative priorities set out in the forward timetable for implementation of the new Community strategy 2002-2006.

Safety, hygiene and health at work: Community programme 1996-2000. Reports included

1998/2015(COS) - 07/01/1998 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: presentation of the activity report(1996) of the safety and health commission for mining and other extractive industries. SUBSTANCE: the report outlines the activities of the Commission in 1996. It was originally created by the ECSC following the disaster at Marcinelle in Belgium in which 262 miners from various European countries were killed. Its principal task is to monitor developments in the field of safety and health in the extractive industries, make proposals to the Member States for practical improvements in workplace conditions and promote the exchange of relevant information. In 1996, the Safety and Health Commission adopted a number of proposals and recommendations concerning the following areas. - principles of strata control and support in underground workings of the extractive industries, - accident statistics for the European offshore oil and gas industry, - human factors affecting reliability and their role in risk prevention. The safety and health commission also has workshops to consider individual cases, for example, the Thoresby collier incident in the United Kingdom. Other workshops have been set up to consider safety in quarries and mines and producing in-depth reports on prevention of explosions and fires on offshore rigs and below ground. At Community level the safety and health commission was also involved in monitoring the transposition of Community directive or in their preparation. The legal instruments concerned were as follows: - transposition of directives 92/91/EEC and 92/104/EEC seeking to improve the safety of workers in the quarrying and underground mining sector, - preparations for a directive concerning electrical equipment for use in explosive atmosphere of mines subject to firedamp(82/130/EEC), - proposal for a directive on the approximation of national provisions concerning measures to be taken to prevent gas emissions and pollutant particles from internal combustion engines used on non- road vehicles. The directive will also apply to open-cast and underground mining. Numerous amendments have been made to the basic text of the directive particularly with regard to the protection of workers. Finally, the report refers to cooperation between the safety and health commission and other European and international bodies particularly European standards organizations (CEN/CENELEC), the IMO and the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.