Basic information

2010/2529(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the proposal for a Council directive implementing the Framework Agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector concluded by HOSPEEM and EPSU **Subject** 4.15.15 Health and safety at work, occupational medicine 4.20.06 Health services, medical institutions 4.20.07 Medical and para-medical professions	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
11/02/2010	Decision by Parliament	T7-0030/2010	Summary
11/02/2010	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/02/2010	Debate in Parliament		Summary
11/02/2010	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2010/2529(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B7-0063/2010	11/02/2010	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0030/2010	11/02/2010	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2010)2011	02/06/2010	

Resolution on the proposal for a Council directive implementing the Framework Agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector concluded by HOSPEEM and EPSU

2010/2529(RSP) - 11/02/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following the debate which took place during the sitting of 11 February 2010, the European Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs on the proposal for a Council directive implementing the Framework Agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector concluded by HOSPEEM and EPSU (COM(2009)0577).

Parliament refers to its resolution of 6 July 2006 with recommendations to the Commission on protecting European healthcare workers from blood-borne infections due to needle-stick injuries (see INI/2006/2015), and it recognises that the proposed Council directive incorporates the most significant findings of its that resolution. It also welcomes the fact that the Commission has requested Parliament's opinion, particularly since this is an issue that has received considerable attention from Parliament over a period of many years. Parliament recommends that the measures defined in the proposed directive be urgently adopted and implemented, as the workers in question have already waited more than five years since this very serious matter was first brought to the Commission's attention.

Members note estimates that there are more than one million needle-stick injuries in the European Union every year, and that needle-stick injuries may lead to the transmission of more than 20 life-threatening viruses, including Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV/Aids, and thus present a serious health problem. Such injuries and other injuries caused by sharp medical instruments represent one of the most common and serious risks for health workers throughout Europe. However, independent studies have shown that the majority of needle-stick injuries can be prevented by better training, better working conditions and the general use of safer medical instruments incorporating sharps protection mechanisms.

Parliament welcomes the fact that the Framework Agreement has been developed on an equal basis in cooperation between HOSPEEM (European Hospital and Healthcare Employers' Association) and the FSESP (Fédération Syndicale Européenne des Services Publics), who are recognised by the Commission as European social partners in the hospital and healthcare system. It also welcomes the fact that the Framework Agreement entails a clause on "minimum standards" without prejudice to existing and future national and Community provisions that are more favourable to workers, recalling that Member States and/or the social partners should be free to adopt additional measures which are more favourable to workers in the area concerned.

The resolution calls on the Commission:

- to issue guidance to accompany the agreement and thereby assist with its smooth implementation in all Member States;
- to monitor the application process for the Agreement and to inform the European Parliament on its implementation on a regular basis.