

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM (84) 394 final

Brussels, 6 September 1984

SEVENTH PROGRESS REPORT OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON SAFETY, HYGIENE AND HEALTH
PROTECTION AT WORK (PERIOD 1982)

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
0. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>	2
1. <u>MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, WORKING PARTIES AND RESTRICTED GROUP</u>	2
2. <u>STRUCTURE AND OPERATION</u>	3
3. <u>MEETINGS</u>	3
3.0. GENERAL REMARKS	3
3.1. NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND DAYS DEVOTED TO MEETINGS	4
4. <u>ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE</u>	5
4.0. GENERAL REMARKS	5
4.1. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	7
5. <u>ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING PARTIES</u>	13
6. <u>ACTIVITIES OF THE RESTRICTED GROUP</u>	14
7. <u>SECRETARIAT</u>	14
8. <u>CONCLUSIONS</u>	14

Annex I: List of members of the Committee, working parties and Restricted Group (at 31.12.1982)

Annex II: Proposal from the Commission to the Council relating to a Second action programme of the European Communities on safety and health at work.

0. INTRODUCTION

Article 3 of the Council Decision of 27 June 1974 on the setting up of an Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work provides that the Committee 'shall produce an annual report of its activities' and that 'the Commission shall forward this report to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community'.

The Seventh Progress Report, for the year 1982, was compiled by the Secretariat and approved by the Committee on 9.11.1983.

1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, WORKING PARTIES AND RESTRICTED GROUP

1.0. Since their second term of office ended on 22 November 1981, the Council appointed the members of the Committee on 2 April 1982 (*) for a third term of office extending to 1 April 1985. The members representing Greek workers and employers were appointed on 21 September 1982 (**).

As compared with the situation before, the Committee now comprises 12 new members and 19 new alternate members (out of a total of 60 in each category). The changes mainly involved changes in status or transfers (from alternate to full members, from a working party to the Committee, and vice versa).

(*) O.J. C 110 of 1 May 1982. These included the Greek government representatives.

(**) O.J. C 284 of 29 October 1982. Since these appointments occurred after the only plenary meeting of the Committee, the Greek representatives of these two groups did not take part in the activities of the Committee or the working parties during 1982.

- 1.1. In the plenary meeting held on 12 and 13 May 1982, the Committee reconstituted the three working parties and appointed the Chairmen and deputy chairmen who constitute the Restricted Group.
- 1.2. The lists of members of the Committee, the three working parties and the Restricted Group at the end of 1982 are given in Annex I.

2. STRUCTURE AND OPERATION

- 2.0. Once reconstituted, the Committee decided to maintain its overall structure and mode of operation. Thus the number and terms of reference of the working parties, the preparatory meeting of the three groups, the role of the Restricted Group, the substitutes in working parties and the three observers (European Trade Union Confederation, Employers' Liaison Committee, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions) remained unchanged (x).
- 2.1. In several instances - see items 4.1. (1) and 4.1. (5) - the Committee confined itself to a general discussion leaving the final drafting of the opinion to a working party.

3. MEETINGS

3.0. General remarks

The total number of meetings remained at customary levels in 1982, with 14 meetings spread over 23 days throughout the year. Details and the trend in numbers of meetings are given in the table on page 4.

(x) See item 2.1. of Sixth Progress Report.

NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND NUMBER OF DAYS DEVOTED TO MEETINGS

1978 / 1982

	Number of meetings						Number of days				
	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	
	(a)	1	1	1	3	2	2	1	2	6	6
Committee	6 (b)	6	4	9	5	11	11	8	15	10	
Working Party I	3	2	3	2	3	6	3	6	4	4	
Working Party II	2	3	4	2	1	2	6	6	2	1	
Working Party III	2	4	2	4	4	2	4	2	4	4	
Restricted Group	14	16	14	20	15	23	25	24	31	25	
TOTAL											

(a) Preceded by a preparatory meeting of the workers' and employers' groups (since 1979) and of the representatives of the national governments (since 1981).

(b) Including a select preparatory meeting.

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

4.0. General remarks

- 4.0.0. The table given below summarizes the activities of the Committee under several headings. Certain activities have continued from 1981, and others will be continued into 1983. Overall the Committee's activities remained at a level comparable with previous years. Apart from internal and organizational matters, all activities result directly or indirectly from the First Action Programme of the European Communities on Safety and Health at Work (x)!
- 4.0.1. Activities in 1982 were affected by two things, the preparation of the Second Action Programme (xx), and the delay in adoption of the directives on lead and asbestos which remained before the Council during 1982 for seven months and the whole year respectively. This held up preparation for example, of information booklets relating to these two directives. The Committee, in accordance with its usual practice, took advantage of this delay to make further progress on other problems (e.g. activities (2), (5) and (8) - see below). As regards the relationship between the Committee and the Commission the situation remains unchanged and in this respect reference is made to the 6th Annual Report.
- 4.0.2. Activities during 1982 laid the foundations for several long-term actions, e.g. activities (1), (2), (5), (8) and (9).
- 4.0.3. The Committee was pleased to note that the proposal for a directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work : noise would be forwarded to Council during the year. (O.J. C 289 of 5 November 1982).

(x) O.J. C 165 of 11 July 1978.

(xx) See Annex II (O.J. C 308 of 25 November 1982).

OPINIONS COMPLETED

SUMMARY (and GROUPING)
of activities in 1982

1.	Second action programme
2.	Overall policy on carcinogens
3.	Draft directive on dangerous agents and processes
4.	Safety training in education
5.	Research programme on the construction industry

OPINIONS BEING PREPARED

6.	Labelling and notification of carcinogens
7.	Information brochures
8.	Community approach to limits, measurement and sampling
9.	Research programme on general safety
10.	Future of the Committee

STUDIES - DOCUMENTATION

11.	Studies and documents for direct use
12.	Up-dating of the safety committee problem
13.	Information for workers

INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

14.	Relations with Commission departments
15.	Multiple, parallel consultations

4.1. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

(1) Second Action Programme

The first Action Programme of the European Communities on Safety and Health at Work covered the years 1978 - 1982. During 1982 Commission prepared a proposal for a second programme for the years 1983 - 1988 and this was presented to the Council on 25 November 1982 (Annex II). (x)

The Committee agreed upon the need for a second programme and welcomed the proposal. The increased emphasis on safety and ergonomics and on actions affecting organization and structures to improve safety within the undertaking was endorsed. Detailed comments were made on the various actions. The opinion also identified the need for the development of work schedules by the Commission services.

(2) Overall policy on carcinogens

The Committee gave an opinion on a working paper prepared by the Commission services on the need for an overall policy referring in particular to carcinogens but applicable also to toxic agents in general.

In this opinion the Committee in particular requested :

- that the Commission set up a system for evaluating substances with a view to achieving a balance between the scientific, technical, economic and social factors;
- that legislation in this field be enacted in the following order: firstly, to ensure general protection, then to establish exposure limits, and finally to consider restrictions or prohibitions.

(x) O.J. C 308 of 25 November 1982.

The Committee attached great importance to this work since it hopes that it will lay down guidelines for future work within the Commission.

(3) Draft directive on dangerous agents and processes

In the light of the discussion and opinion concerning carcinogens described under (2) the Committee confined consideration to some specific aspects of this draft proposal.

The Committee supported the Commission's view favouring the introduction at Community level of some legal restriction or prohibition of certain agents or processes; it also agreed that such a measure should be applicable initially only to a very limited number of agents or processes.

With regard to the procedure to be laid down for granting exemptions to any prohibition, the possibility that authorizations could be issued nationally was discarded in favour of notification by member countries where an exemption to Community rules was allowed.

(4) Safety training in education

Considering that too little had been done with regard to safety training in education, the Committee took the initiative of sending a nearly unanimous opinion to the Commission requesting that Member States be encouraged to take steps to introduce, improve or extend safety training throughout all branches and to all levels of education.

In view of the request's relative novelty, the opinion was couched in broad terms of general policy in order to avoid any clash with the different educational systems in Member States. The Committee is waiting to learn of any developments.

(5) Research programme on the construction industry

Following on work commenced in 1981, Working Party II, presented its opinion on a research programme relating to the prevention of risks to health and safety in the construction and civil engineering industries. For this use was made of two preparatory studies (see item 11).

The programme comprises several topics - such as the working environment, materials, diseases, work organization, training and information for workers and statistics - and steps were taken in late 1982 for the administrative and financial aspects to be considered by the Commission.

Working Party II wishes to be involved in the implementation of the programme, which will last at least two years.

(6) Labelling and notification of carcinogens

With regard to the provisions being prepared by DG III concerning the labelling of carcinogens and the notification of new substances in this category, an opinion was drawn up starting with the observation that the drafts were essentially concerned with marketing aspects and not sufficiently with worker protection.

The opinion put to the Commission proposes that :

- the existing labelling system be adapted to meet the specific conditions covering use by workers;
- a labelling system (marketing) applicable to production be set up ;
- the information provided in the notification be made available to all persons concerned, particularly the workers.

(7) Information brochures

Since it had itself insisted that brochures of this type be brought into line with the corresponding directives, the Committee and Working Party III were forced to call a halt to this work in 1982 until such time as the directive on lead was approved (in July) and progress was made at Council with the directive on asbestos.

(8) Community approach to exposure limits, measurement and sampling

Working Party I began work on a basic overall approach to these problems. Discussion has centered on the need for a European list of exposure values for a limited number of substances and for greater clarification in the relevant concepts and definitions to be used.

(9) Research programme on general safety

Discussions in Working Party II were resumed in the context of the broad proposals for a European Scientific and Technical Strategy : Framework Programme 1984 - 87. In this, specific reference is made to accidents at work and the need for research into the application of the principles of integrated safety, with special attention to certain groups of works at special risk.

(10) Future of the Committee

The Committee instructed the Restricted Group to consider matters affecting the functioning and efficiency of the Committee so that it could express a viewpoint if and when requested to do so.

(11) Studies and documentation

The following reports, documents, etc. were considered :

The major documents and studies are listed below:

Subject/title	User	Action involved 4.1.(...)	Origin
Occupational carcinogens (W.Hunter - CEC)	I	(2)	DG V/E
Comparative analysis of the principles and application of limit values in the Member States of the European Communities (L. Parmeggiani - Geneva)		(8)	DG V/E
Comparison of exposure values on the American, German and Dutch lists			Member
German technical regulations (TRK and MAK)			Member
ISO standards for laboratory work			
Evaluation and comparison of existing data and criteria for the definition of working conditions in the construction industry in the European Community (B.A.U. - Germany)	II	(5)	DG V/E
Analysis of the causes of accidents due to falls in the building and public works industry. Suggestions for prevention (I.N.R.S. - France)		(9)	
Survey of the scientific and technical bases for drawing up a Community research programme on health and safety at work (F. Longchambon - France)			

Summary notes on the provisions concerning scope and certain fields of responsibility of works safety committees, laid down in recent French and Dutch laws and in ILO Convention No 155 and Recommendation No 164.	III	(12)	DG V/E
Comparison of the provisions concerning information for workers in the PVC, Framework, Major Accidents, Lead, Microwaves and Asbestos directives.		(13)	

(12) Safety committees and delegates in undertakings

Working Party III noted that provisions relating to the scope and certain responsibilities of safety committees have recently been introduced in the Netherlands, France and at the ILO.

Working Party III requested the Secretariat to prepare documentation with summaries of these new provisions with a view to revising the previous opinion of 1979.

(13) Information for workers

Working Party III requested the Secretariat to draw up a detailed comparison of the six directives or proposal directives (PVC, Framework, Major Accidents, Lead, Microwaves and Asbestos) insofar as they relate to information for workers.

(14) Relations with Commission departments

It was observed that a number of directives were not transmitted to the Committee for an opinion (e.g. concerning packaging for liquid foodstuffs, dangerous cosmetics, pressure vessels, machine tools and grinding machines). The Committee considers

that it should not be up to Commission services alone to decide what falls within the field of competence of the Committee, but rather it is the task of the Committee (or the Restricted Group) to decide which draft proposals require full, partial or no examination at all. It appeared that the competence of the Committee was being put at risk by 'informal arrangements' and that some thought needed to be given to formal agreements.

(15) Multiple, parallel consultations

The Committee requested that only the original draft be used during consultations at various levels. This was intended to put all parties concerned on an equal footing and avoid misunderstandings or misinterpretations gaining ground among Committee members.

5. ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING PARTIES

5.0. The preparatory activities of the working parties have already been given in detail in item 4.1.

5.1. The following is a brief outline of these activities under the relevant working party.

	<u>Preparatory activity</u>	<u>See 4.1. item (...)</u>
WP I	. Second action programme (x)	(1)
	. Overall policy on carcinogens	(2)
	. Directive on dangerous agents and processes	(3)
	. Labelling and notification of carcinogens	(6)
	. Community approach to limits, measurement and sampling	(8)

(x) special mandate for definitive action.

WP II	. Research programme on the construction industry	(5)
	. Research programme on general safety	(9)
WP III	. Safety training in education	(4)
	. Information brochures	(7)
	. Up-dating of the Safety Committee problem	(12)
	. Information for workers	(13)

6. ACTIVITIES OF THE RESTRICTED GROUP

The Restricted Group continued to discharge its basic task of preparing and organizing activities for the Committee and working parties; it supervised all the activities listed under item 4.1., involving the following major points :

- . the proper functioning of the Committee;
- . the implementation of the action programme;
- . satisfactory relations with Commission services.

7. SECRETARIAT

No changes took place in 1982 in the staff of the Secretariat (two A grade officials and one C grade official).

8. CONCLUSIONS

1982 has seen an appreciable volume of work. In 1983 the Committee looks forward to the adoption of the proposal for a directive on asbestos and the proposal for a Second Action Programme. This will have great significance for the future and the Committee hopes to play a significant role in the implementation of the various actions. The Committee looks forward to the active participation of the new Greek delegates.

MEMLEMMER
MITGLIEDER
MEMBERS
MEMBRES
MEMBRI
LEDEN

- A = *Repraesentanter for regeringen*
Regierungsvertreter
Representatives of the Government
Représentants du gouvernement
Rappresentanti del governo
Vertegenwoordigers van de Regering
μέλος που εκπροσωπεῖ κυβέρνηση
- B = *Repraesentanter for arbejdstagerne faglige organisationer*
Vertreter der Arbeitnehmerorganisationen
Representatives of trade unions
Représentants des organisations syndicales de travailleurs
Rappresentanti delle organizzazioni sindacali dei lavoratori
Vertegenwoordigers van de organisaties van werknemers
μέλος που εκπροσωπεῖ εργαζόμενους
- C = *Repraesentanter for arbejdsgivernes faglige organisationer*
Vertreter der Arbeitgeberorganisationen
Representatives of employers' organizations
Représentants des organisations syndicales d'employeurs
Rappresentanti delle organizzazioni sindacali dei datori di lavoro
Vertegenwoordigers van de organisaties van werkgevers
μέλος που εκπροσωπεῖ εργοδότες

Rådgivende udvalg - Beratender Ausschuss - Advisory Committee - Comité consultatif
 Comitato consultivo - Raadgevend Comité - Εμβουλευτική Έπιτροπή

Titulaires	Suppléants	Titulaires	Suppléants
Faste medlemmer	Suppleanterne	Faste medlemmer	Suppleanterne
Mitglieder	Stellvertreter	Mitglieder	Stellvertreter
Full members	Alternate members	Full members	Alternate members
Membri titolari	Membri supplenti	Membri titolari	Membri supplenti
Gewone leden	Plaatsvervangende leden	Gewone leden	Plaatsvervangende leden
Πλήρη Μέλη	Αναπληρωματικά Μέλη	Πλήρη Μέλη	Αναπληρωματικά Μέλη

Belgie/Belgique Danmark	M. BENS Hr. BURG	Mme. MARQUENGNIES Hr. SAXILD	M. DENONNE Hr. ANDERSEN	M. GREGOIRE Hr. NEPPER-CHRISTENSEN
D.R. Deutschland France	Herr KLIESCH M. NUTTE	Herr OPFERMANN Mlle BUNE	Herr WAGNER M. COURSAULT-DURAND	Herr WOLFF M. BABUSIAUX
Ellas Irland Italia	k. VASSILOPOULOS Mr. KENNEDY Sig. FREDELLA	ka. KAFETZOPOULOU Mr. MORRISON Dott. ^{ssa} ROCCA- ERCOLI	Ka. GEORGOPOULOU Mr. CONROY Sig. FIORE	k. ZORBAS Mr. MURPHY Sig. GUERRIERI
Luxembourg Nederland United Kingdom	M. SCHUSTER Dhr. DE ROOS Mr. MARTIN	M. MOUSEL Dhr. RIKMENSPOEL Mr. MUNNS	Mme KIEFFER Dhr. SICCAMA Mr. SORRIE	M. DEMUTH Dhr. VOS Mr. CRITCHLOW
Belgie/Belgique Danmark	M. THYRE Hr. ELIKOFER	M. THISSEN Hr. NIELSEN	M. SILON Fr. CHRISTENSEN	M. COLLE Fr. SVANHOLT
D.R. Deutschland France	Herr KONSTANTY M. BAUDE	Herr KIENAPPEL M. MALNOE	Herr PARTIKEL M. GUEVEL	Herr GÄRTNER M. DIAZ
Ellas Irland Italia	k. TASOULIS Mr. BRANIGAN Sig. LELI	k. YERANIOS Mr. O'HALLORAN Sig. ^{ra} TOMASSINI	ka VASILAKOU Mr. O'SULLIVAN Sig. STANZANI	ka KARAMANOU Mr. KEATING Sig. LUCIANI
Luxembourg Nederland United Kingdom	M. JUNCK Dhr. BUNT Mr. LLOYD	M. DUNKEL Dhr. BURINGH Mr. BUCKTON	M. RIES Dhr. VAN DE KAMP Mr. JACQUES	M. NURENBERG Dhr. SCHMITZ M. HAMILTON
Belgie/Belgique Danmark	M. CORDY Hr. FALK	M. BORMANS Hr. LINIUS	M. LEONARD Hr. VON GRUMBKOW	M. HARDY Fr. KROGH ANDERSE
D.R. Deutschland France	Herr VON HASSEL M. CAVE	Herr MÜLLER M. FREDERIC-MOREAU	Herr MEYER M. TASSIN	Herr WINCKLER M. FRUCHET
Ellas Irland Italia	k. TSAMOPOULOS Mr. CLARKE Sig. GARLANDA	ka. VAFIADOU Mr. CASSIDY Sig. GIUSTI	k. FALALIS Mr. RICE Sig. BUSSETTI	k. KALDIS Mrs. CARROLL Sig. SCARFINI
Luxembourg Nederland United Kingdom	M. RAUCHS Dhr. DEN BOER Mr. AMIS	M. BERWEILER Mevr. DE QUANT Ms. MACKIE	M. OLINGER Mej. DE MEESTER Mr. EBERLIE	M. BEFFORT Dhr. KORTEN Ms. SWIADKOWSKA

Arbejdsgruppe I - Arbeitsgruppe I - Working Party I - Groupe de travail
 Gruppo di lavoro I - Werkgroep I - Ομάδα εργασίας I

Tekniske og forskriftsmaessige aspekter i forbindelse med forebyggelse og beskyttelse
 Technische Aspekte und Vorschriften der Unfallverhütung und des Gesundheitsschutzes
 Technical protective measures and regulations relating to health and safety at work
 Aspects techniques et réglementaires de la prévention et de la protection
 Aspetti tecnici e normativi della prevenzione e della protezione
 Technische en reglementaire aspecten van de ongevallenpreventie en gezondheidsbescherming
 Τεχνικά προστατευτικά μέτρα και κανονισμοί αναφορικά με την υγεία και την ασφάλεια
 στον τόπο εργασίας.

	A	B	C
België/Belgique	M. BENS	M. SILON (x)	M. CORDY
Danmark	Hr. SAXILD	Hr. ELIKOFER	Hr. FALK
Bundesrepublik Deutschland	Herr HORNEFFER	Herr PARTIKEL	Herr HARTMANN
France	M. MAIN	M. LEVY	M. FREDERIC- MOREAU
Hellas	M. VASSILOPOULOS (xx)	-----	-----
Ireland	Mr. KENNEDY	Mr. O'SULLIVAN	Mr. CLARKE
Italia	Sig. FIORE	Sig. ^{ra} TOMASSINI	Sig. GARLANDA
Luxembourg	M. SCHUSTER	M. RIES	M. OLINGER
Nederland	Dhr. RIKMENSPOEL	Dhr. BURINGH	Dhr. DEN BOER
United Kingdom	Mrs. BARGER	Mr. JACQUES	Mr. EBERLIE (xx)

(x) Président

(xx) Vice-président

Arbejdsgruppe II - Arbeitsgruppe II - Working Party II - Groupe de travail II
 Gruppo di lavoro II - Werkgroep II - 'Ομάδα έργασίας II

Statistik og Forskning
 Statistik und Forschung
 Statistics and research
 Statistiques et recherches
 Statistiche e ricerche
 Statistiek en onderzoek
 Στατιστική και έρευνα

	A	B	C
België/Belgique	M. DE GREVE	M. THISSEN	M. CORDY
Danmark	Hr. ANDERSEN	Fr. SVANHOLT	Hr. GRUNNET
Bundersrepublik Deutschland	Herr KOCH	Herr KIENAPPEL	Herr BASTONG
FRANCE	M. MOYEN	M. LASSUS	M. FREDERIC-MOREAU
HELLAS	ka. GEORGOPOULOU	-----	-----
Ireland	Mr. MURPHY	Mr. O'HALLORAN	Mrs. CARROLL
Italia	Sig. FREDELLA	Sig. STANZANI (xx)	Sig. GIUSTI
Luxembourg	M. DEMUTH	M. NURENBERG	M. RAUCHS
Nederland	Dhr. LIGTERINGEN	Dhr. SCHMITZ	Dhr. DEN BOER (x)
United Kingdom	Mr. SORRIE (xx)	Mr. OWEN	Mr. NASH

(x) Président

(xx) Vice-président

Arbejdsgruppe III - Arbeitsgruppe III - Working Party III - Groupe de travail III
 Gruppo di lavoro III - Werkgroep III - Ομάδα εργασίας III

Arbejdsmarkedets parters rolle, problemer i forbindelse med uddannelse og information
 Rolle der Sozialpartner, Ausbildungs- und Informationsprobleme
 Role of both sides of industry, problems of training and information
 Rôle des partenaires sociaux, problèmes de formation et d'information
 Ruolo delle parti sociali, problemi di formazione e d'informazione
 Rol van de sociale partners, opleiding en voorlichting
 Ρόλος των κοινωνικών εταίρων, προβλήματα εκπαίδευσης και ενημέρωσης

	A	B	C
België/Belgique	M. NUYTS	M. KENNES	M. CORDY
Danmark	Hr. OVERGÅRD-HANSEN	Hr. ELIKOFER	Hr. FALK
Bundesrepublik Deutschland	Herr ANZINGER	Herr KONSTANTY	Herr WILKE
France	M. JACOB	M. GUEVEL	M. TASSIN (xx)
Hellas	ka. GEORGOPOULOU	-----	-----
Ireland	Mr. CONROY	Mr. BRANIGAN	Mr. RICE
Italia	Sig. FIORE (x)	Sig. LELI	Sig. BUSSETTI
Luxembourg	M. SCHUSTER	M. JUNCK	M. MARGUE
Nederland	Dhr. VOS	Dhr. BUNT	Mej. DE MEESTER
United Kingdom	Mr. WATSON	Mr. HAMILTON (xx)	Mr. NASH

(x) Président

(xx) Vice-président

M. SILON

k. VASSILOPOULOS

Mr. EBERLIE

Dhr. DEN BOER

Mr. SORRIE

Sig. STANZANI

Sig. FIORE

Mr. HAMILTON

M. TASSIN

Proposal for a Council resolution on a second programme of action of the European Communities on safety and health at work

(Submitted by the Commission to the Council on 4 November 1982)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaties establishing the European Communities,

Having regard to the draft resolution submitted by the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas the Council resolution of 21 January 1974 concerning a social action programme (*) provides for the establishment of an action programme on safety and health at work;

Whereas, under Article 2 of the EEC Treaty, the Community shall have among its tasks, by establishing a common market and progressively approximating the economic policies of Member States, that of promoting throughout the Community a harmonious development of economic activities, a continuous and balanced expansion and an accelerated raising of the standard of living;

Whereas, at the Conference held in Paris in October 1972, the Heads of State or of Government affirmed that the first aim of economic expansion, which is not an end in itself, should be to enable disparities in living conditions to be reduced and that it should result in an improvement in the quality of life as well as in standards of living.

Whereas moreover, in Article 117 of the EEC Treaty, the Member States agree upon the need to promote improved working conditions and an improved standard of living for workers, so as to make possible their harmonization while the improvement is being maintained;

Whereas prevention of occupational accidents and diseases and also occupational hygiene fall within the fields and objectives referred to in Article 118 of the EEC Treaty; whereas in this context collaboration should be strengthened between the Member States and the Commission and between the Member States themselves;

Whereas suitable health protection for the public and effective prevention of accidents and effects on health from work would meet these general objectives;

Whereas, in spite of sustained efforts, the continuing high level of accidents and effects on health from work remains a serious problem;

Whereas efforts made in the field of accident prevention and health protection at the work place have beneficial effects which are reflected in the economic sphere and in industrial relations;

Whereas a considerable effort is needed at Community level to search for and implement suitable means for maintaining or creating a working environment tailored to the needs of man and his legitimate aspirations;

Whereas both the effectiveness of the measures and their cost should be taken into account in the choice of action at Community level to be undertaken and of the measures to be taken to implement it;

Whereas the improvement of working conditions and the working environment must be envisaged in overall terms and must concern all sectors of the economy;

Whereas the actions should be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Treaties, including those of Article 235 of the EEC Treaty;

Whereas it is essential also to encourage the increasing participation of management and labour in the decisions and initiatives in the field of safety, hygiene and health protection at work at all levels, particularly at the level of the undertaking;

Whereas the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, set up by Council Decision 74/325/EEC (*), must be closely associated with this work;

Whereas the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions and The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training may have a role to play in the implementation of certain aspects of the programme;

Whereas, in implementing the actions, account must be taken of work undertaken in other fields, notably in the context of the Council resolution of 17 December 1973 on industrial policy (*) and of the

(*) OJ No C 13, 12. 2. 1974, p. 1.

(*) OJ No L 185, 9. 7. 1974, p. 15.

(*) OJ No C 117, 31. 12. 1973, p. 1.

Declaration⁽¹⁾ and resolution⁽²⁾ of the Council of the European Communities and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting in Council relating to the programmes of action of the European Communities on the environment in order to ensure the closest possible coordination of actions and proposals;

Whereas, in order to carry out the actions, it is important to ensure that concepts, terminology and also methods of identification, measurement and assessment relating to safety and health risks are harmonized; whereas such a task is of major importance in the context of these actions;

Whereas the actions in the Council resolution of 29 June 1978 on an action programme of the European Communities on safety and health at work⁽³⁾ can be undertaken until the end of 1982;

Notes that this second action programme takes into account the action programme for the Commission annexed to the aforesaid resolution;

Expresses the political will to take, in keeping with the urgency of the matter and bearing in mind what is feasible at national and Community level, the measures required so that between now and the end of 1988 the following priority actions can be undertaken:

I. PROTECTION AGAINST DANGEROUS AGENTS

1. Propose Directives based on Council Directive 80/1107/EEC of 27 November 1980 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work⁽⁴⁾.
2. Establish a methodology for the assessment of the health risks connected with the physical, chemical and biological agents present at the workplace, in particular by research into criteria of harmfulness, by determining the reference values from which to obtain exposure limits, and taking into account new agents to which workers are exposed.
3. Develop a standard approach to establishing exposure limits for toxic agents. Make recommendations for the harmonization of exposure limits for a certain number of agents, taking into account existing exposure limits.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 112, 20. 12. 1973, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 189, 13. 6. 1977, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 165, 11. 7. 1978, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 327, 3. 12. 1980, p. 8.

4. Develop standard methods for use at Community level, including indicators of individual exposure to agents, and establish the measures necessary to limit individual exposure.

5. Develop preventive and protective actions for agents recognized as being carcinogenic, by fixing exposure limits, by defining measuring methods, by determining satisfactory conditions of hygiene at work, and by prohibiting use when necessary.

Apply the principles for dealing with carcinogens to other dangerous agents and processes which may produce serious health effects, e.g. pathogens, mutagens, teratogens, and new biological techniques.

6. Develop proposals for limiting exposure to noise, vibrations and other non-ionizing radiations.

II. PROTECTION AGAINST ACCIDENTS AND DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES

7. Develop proposals for safety legislation aimed at ensuring comprehensive and coherent provisions throughout the Community, in particular for certain high-risk occupational groups e.g. metal workers, construction and demolition workers, and waste-disposal workers.
8. Develop proposals on specific measures for accident prevention relating to falls, to manual lifting and handling, and to plant, tools and equipment, taking into account Council Directive 82/501/EEC of 24 June 1982 on the major-accident hazards of certain industrial activities⁽⁵⁾.
9. Ensure by the application of ergonomics that the stress imposed on groups of the working population by design of equipment, by the task required and by the work environment is not prejudicial to their health and safety.
10. Monitor and improve the effectiveness of safety and health arrangements by the organization of exchanges of experience, in particular as regards the inspectorates of the Member States, with a view to establishing more clearly the principles,

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 230, 5. 8. 1982, p. 1.

methods of organization, and training carried out for and by the inspectorates in the fields of safety, health and hygiene at work.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS — MONITORING

11. Develop recommendations on the organizational and advisory structures of health and safety responsibilities within small and medium-sized industries, including the roles and responsibilities of specialists in occupational health, hygiene, and safety.
12. Establish the principles and criteria for monitoring groups of workers, likely to be at high risk to their health and safety, in particular maintenance and repair teams, workers undertaking subcontract or temporary work, laboratory workers and those involved with biotechnology and other new technologies.

IV. TRAINING AND INFORMATION

13. Encourage the collection and dissemination of information at national and Community level on safety and health at work. Draw up recommendations concerning information notices and manuals on the handling of certain dangerous substances, in particular for those which are the subject of Community Directives.
14. Establish the availability and suitability of information to employers and workers who are liable to be exposed to chemicals and other agents at work, including the relevance of available information on marketed substances, and develop proposals for the identification of dangerous agents in the workplace.

15. Draw up schemes relating to the safety training of young workers and develop outline training schemes for particular categories of workers such as migrants, new recruits and those who have changed jobs.

V. STATISTICS

16. Develop comparable data on mortality connected with work and collate data from other existing sources to describe the frequency, gravity and causes of accidents at work and absenteeism from work attributable to sickness.
17. Compile an inventory of the cancer registers existing at local, regional and national level, with a view to assessing the comparability of the data contained in these registers, and assess the need for better coordination at Community level.

VI. RESEARCH

18. Identify topics for applied research in the field of safety and health, at work, which are directed towards future Community actions.

VII. COLLABORATION

19. Continue collaboration with other international organizations such as the World Health Organization and the International Labour Office, as well as with national bodies and institutes from outside the Community.
20. Continue to develop beneficial cooperation with other Community actions.