

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(90) 450 final

Brussels, 7 November 1990

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DECISION
on an action programme for the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and
Health Protection at Work (1992)

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. Legal basis

The draft decision is based on Article 235 of the EEC Treaty.

2. Aim of the draft decision

The Council Resolution of 21.12.87⁽¹⁾ suggested the organization in 1992 of a European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work with a view to conducting a number of activities designed to promote and enhance the value of the substantial body of Community measures in this field subsequent to the implementation of Article 118a of the EEC Treaty.

These actions are to be designed specifically to heighten the awareness of the public at large, the various economic agents, the workers' and employers' representative bodies, government organizations and the appropriate education, training and information organizations.

The activities will be undertaken by the Commission and in conjunction with the Member States on a Community basis.

It is also important to bear in mind that, despite the lack of sufficiently reliable statistical series at European level, the data available at Member State level give a good idea of the high cost in human and social terms of the consequences of accidents at work. For 1984, the amount of compensation paid for accidents at work and occupational illnesses is put at some 16 000 million ECU for the whole of the EC, i.e. 7% of total expenditure on sickness insurance.⁽²⁾

3. Characteristics of the draft decision

The draft comprises the draft decision proper and an annex setting out details of activities planned during the European Year.

These activities are set out in three chapters pursuant to the form of financing.

(1) OJ C28/1, 3.2.88

(2) OJ C28/3, 3.2.88

4. Consultation of interested parties

Pursuant to the provisions set out in paragraph 5 of the above Council Resolution, the Commission has consulted and involved the representatives of governments and workers' and employers' organizations in drawing up this draft decision.

Thus, the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work (set up under Council Decision 74/325/EEC of 27.6.1974) has been consulted and has expressed a favourable opinion.

II

(Preparatory Acts)

COMMISSION

Proposal for a Council Decision on an action programme for the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work (1992)

COM(90) 450 final

(Submitted by the Commission on 13 November 1990)

(90/C 293/03)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

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

Having regard to the opinion of the Advisory Committee for Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work,

Whereas the Council on 21 December 1987 suggested that a European year should be organized in 1992 in the field of safety, hygiene and health protection at work⁽¹⁾;

Whereas the Council also welcomed the Commission's communication on its programme⁽²⁾ concerning safety, hygiene and health at work;

Whereas 1992 sees the completion of this action programme and thus presents an opportunity to take stock of the programme and demonstrate its coherence;

Whereas the Council acknowledged the predominant role of the heightening of public awareness for the success of the measures recommended in the Commission's communication on its programme on safety, hygiene and health at work;

Whereas the Council emphasized that the information, increased awareness and, if necessary, the training of employers and workers will play a fundamental role in the success of the measures recommended in the Commission's communication on its programme on safety, hygiene and health at work;

Whereas, for the activity in question, the Treaty provides for no other powers than those set out in Article 235,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 28, 3. 2. 1988, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 28, 3. 2. 1988, p. 3.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. 1992 shall be declared 'European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work', running from March 1992 to March 1993.

To this end coordinated activities shall be organized by the Community, the Member States, the social partners and by public and private bodies.

2. The staff required for the implementation of the programme and the amount of expenditure estimated are set out in detail in the financial statement attached to this Decision. The appropriations necessary for the implementation of this Decision shall be entered every year in the General Budget of the European Communities.

Article 2

1. The Commission shall consult periodically the appropriate authorities in the Member States at the various stages of implementation of the activities provided for in this Decision.

2. The Commission shall inform the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee of the progress of work, and shall send them a report and assessment of the activities carried out in the course of the year.

ANNEX

AIMS AND JUSTIFICATION OF ACTIONS ENVISAGED FOR THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF SAFETY, HYGIENE AND HEALTH AT WORK (1992)

Despite the lack of sufficiently reliable statistical series at European level, the data available at Member State level give a good idea of the high cost in human and social terms of the consequences of accidents at work and occupational illnesses. For 1984, the amount of compensation paid for such accidents and illnesses is put at some ECU 16 000 million for the whole of the European Community, i.e. 7 % of total expenditure on sickness insurance.

The European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health at Work will set out to conduct a number of activities designed to promote and enhance the value of the substantial body of Community measures in this field.

These aims can be justified by the need to

- bring out, in the context of the internal market, the importance of the social and economic aspects of problems relating to safety, hygiene and health at work,
- make worker, employers and young people more aware of the safety, hygiene and health risks at the workplace and of what can be done about them.

To this end, coordinated activities will be undertaken by the Community, the Member States, the social partners and public and private organizations.

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A. Actions to be financed entirely from the Community budget

1. European colloquium to launch European Year.
2. Conferences in all Member States.
3. Film festival.
4. Logo design, poster campaigns.
5. Television programmes and videos.
6. European colloquium to close European Year.
7. Production of booklets and stickers on the Community's health and safety policy.

B. Actions cofinanced by the Community budget

These actions may be financed from the Community budget up to a percentage of the total cost which will depend on the particular case but will not exceed 70 % of the total cost of the project.

1. Actions by public and/or private organizations to improve and promote the dissemination of information on occupational risks and their prevention.
2. Actions by public and/or private organizations to give greater importance to the training of workers and employers in the field of safety, hygiene and health protection at work.
3. Actions by public and/or private organizations to integrate instruction in safety, hygiene and health protection at work into teaching and training programmes aimed at employers and workers.
4. Actions by public and/or private organizations to improve the understanding of problems of health, hygiene and safety at work in SMEs and to promote specific solutions.
5. Actions by public and/or private organizations to improve the exchange of information on good enforcement practice in Member States regarding Community legislation on safety, hygiene and health at work.

Applications for grants should be submitted to the Commission by Member States.

Projects selected for Community assistance will be designated 'Community projects for the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work'.

C. Actions without financial implications for the Community budget

Actions undertaken by public or private organizations in the field of safety, hygiene and health protection at work:

- to promote use of the common logo and slogan of the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work in regular publicity campaigns,
- to encourage the spread of information on European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work through the mass media,
- other actions to be determined.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

DRAFT COUNCIL DECISION ON THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF SAFETY, HYGIENE AND HEALTH PROTECTION AT WORK

1. Budget line

3054

2. Legal base

- Council Resolution (88/C/28/01) of 21.12.1987(1), suggesting the organization in 1992 of a European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.
- Council Decision of on a programme of action for the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health protection at Work.

3. Classification into compulsory/non-compulsory expenditure

Non-compulsory.

4. Description and justification

4.1. Description of the proposed activities - see annex to the Council Decision.

4.2. Justification

In its Resolution (88/C/28/01) of 21.12.1987, the Council acknowledges the predominant role of heightening public awareness for the success of the measures recommended in the Commission's communication on its programme on safety, hygiene and health protection at work, and suggests the organization of a European Year in this field.

5. Nature of expenditure and form of calculation

- Overall cost 1991-1992-1993 : 12 million ecus.

(1) OJ C28/1 of 3.2.88

The appropriations will be used to finance the costs arising directly from the implementation of the measures set out in the annex to the Council Decision.

Certain items of the administrative expenditure will also be financed from these appropriations.

- Form of calculation

(see annex).

6. Financial consequences of the proposed measure on intervention appropriations

6.1. Schedule of due dates for commitment and payment appropriations

	COMMITMENT	PAYMENT		
		91	92	93
91	3.150.000	2.800.000	350.000	
92	6.200.000		6.200.000	
93	2.650.000			2.650.000
TOTAL	12.000.000	2.800.000	6.550.000	2.650.000

6.2. Share of Community finance (%) in total cost of the proposed measure

100 %

7. Financial impact on staff and administrative appropriations

7.1. Staff requirements

Creation of a Task Force comprising outside specialists from 1991, as follows :

A : 4
B : 13
C : 4

7.2. Staff appropriations required

These appropriations are estimated at 1.450.000 ecus from 1991.

XXXXX
XXXXXXX
XXXXX

ANNEX

**BUDGET FOR THE EUROPEAN YEAR
OF SAFETY, HYGIENE AND HEALTH PROTECTION AT WORK**

	1991	1992	1993	TOTAL
Fixed costs: administr., management	350.000	500.000	250.000	1.100.000
Consultants	250.000	100.000	-	350.000
Support for actions undertaken by the Member States	1.100.000	2.500.000	400.000	4.000.000
Support for actions undertaken by international organizations	350.000	100.000	-	450.000
Actions organized by the Commission See Annex, item A, 1, 3, 4	1.100.000	3.000.000	2.000.000	6.100.000
TOTAL	3.150.000	6.200.000	2.650.000	12.000.000

M

IMPACT ON COMPETITIVENESS AND EMPLOYMENT

Subject : Draft Council Decision on a programme of action for the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work

1. What is the main point of the measure?

Within the context of the internal market and with regard to the social and economic aspects thereof, to bring out the major benefits resulting from the implementation of prevention measures and of a high level of protection in terms of safety, hygiene and health protection at work.

To heighten the awareness of workers, employers and young people to occupational risks and the means of doing something about them, in terms of safety, hygiene and health protection at work.

2. Characteristics of the firms concerned. More particularly:

a) Large number of SMEs?

b) Concentrated in certain regions?

i. eligible for Member States' regional aid?

ii. eligible for ERDF aid?

a) Given the nature of the rules and regulations on safety and health, most SMEs are concerned.

b) No.

3. What are the direct obligations on firms?

This proposal places no direct obligations on firms.

4. What obligations are liable to be placed indirectly on firms by local authorities?

None.

5. Are there any special measures for SMEs? If so, what?

It is planned to devise specific activities designed to improve general awareness of safety, hygiene and health protection issues in SMEs and to promote specific solutions.

6. What is the likely effect:

a) on the competitive position of firms?

b) on jobs?

The proposed activities can only have a positive effect on the competitive position of firms.

7. Have the social partners been consulted?
What are their views?

The social partners have been consulted within the context of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work set up under Council Decision 74/325/EEC of 27/6/1974.

This proposal has met with considerable interest from the trade union organizations and from the employers' and government representatives.

They expressed a unanimous favourable opinion on the draft proposal at the full meeting of the Committee on 21 and 22 February 1990 and are involved in deciding what activities should be undertaken and in setting up the necessary connections to ensure the success of the operation.

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DOCUMENTS

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