

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION

on work arising from the Council Decision of 25 July 1991
on an action programme for the European Year of Safety,
Hygiene and Health Protection at Work (1992)

**PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL,
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SAFETY, HYGIENE
AND HEALTH PROTECTION AT WORK**

on work arising from the Council Decision of

25 July 1991

on an action programme for the

EUROPEAN YEAR OF SAFETY, HYGIENE AND HEALTH PROTECTION

AT WORK (1992)

(OJEC L 214/77 OF 2.8.91)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Article 6 of Council Decision 91/388/EEC of 25 July 1991 (OJ L 214/77 of 2.8.1991) on an action programme for the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work (1992) stipulates the following:

- " - **Informing the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Advisory Committee**

The Commission shall inform the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Advisory Committee for Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work of the progress of work and shall send them a report and assessment of the actions carried out in the course of the European Year."

I) INTRODUCTION

The European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work began on March 1st 1992, and finishes at end February 1993.

The Commission of the European Communities has sought to support the actions of the Members States, and to ensure that Community added value is given to these actions. Events have been supported which have taken place at all levels i.e. local, regional, national and at Community level. However, the Commission has placed special emphasis on actions at local level.

Halfway through the European Year, it is clear that the first part of the campaign has met with a considerable response in work safety circles. The National Liaison Committees have received 1296 project applications, of which 400 have received financial aid from the Commission.

Over 800 of the others have received permission from the Committees to use the European Year logo, thus increasing its impact.

It should be noted that the majority of the projects supported by the European Year or using its logo are ones involving direct action by workers, employers or workplace safety officials, in order to encourage and reinforce awareness of safety at local level.

This report has been drawn up as stipulated by the Council Decision, to describe progress up to 1 September 1992, i.e. halfway through the Year.

II) STRUCTURES AND ORGANISATION

1) The Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work (1)

In accordance with its remit, the Advisory Committee was involved in the drafting of the Council Resolution and of the organisational aspects of the Year. It set up an ad hoc group comprising representatives of the three interest groups, which, in a restricted form, is actively involved in or associated with all the activities organised by the Commission.

2) The Advisory Steering Committee (ASC)

The Committee was set up on 11 October 1991 pursuant to Article 5 of the Council Decision. It comprises one representative from each Member State plus a representative of the Economic and Social Committee. The ASC receives regular information from the Commission on progress in the various activities. It is consulted in the selection of the actions referred to in Section II A and B of the Annex to the Decision.

The Committee met seven times between 11 October 1991 and 10 July 1992.

3) The National Liaison Committees (NLCs)

A National Liaison Committee is in operation in each Member State. They are tripartite (workers, employers, ministries) and are responsible for coordinating and implementing measures at national level.

The Commission organises regular meetings of the heads of these Committees to prepare work, organise and monitor activities and projects and coordinate measures at national and Community levels. The meetings provide an opportunity to establish general coordination and coordination between the Committees and the Commission.

Thirteen meetings were held between 10 December 1990 and 10 July 1992.

4) The Commission

The Commission gave the task of organising the European Year to Unit V/E/5 of the Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs' Health and Safety Directorate. The Unit was to provide general coordination and to implement the measures provided for in the Council Decision:

- coordination with the National Liaison Committees and the Member States;
- organising and implementing actions under Section II A of the Council Decision;
- administration and general and budgetary management, including the follow-up and supervision of applications for co-financing.

III) **EXECUTION OF SECTION II A OF THE ANNEX TO THE COUNCIL DECISION: ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED ENTIRELY FROM THE COMMUNITY BUDGET.**

(The following points are given in the order in which they appear in the Council Decision.)

1. a) Organisation of a European colloquium to launch the European Year

The opening conference for the European Year, on 11 and 12 March 1992, was held in Lisbon at the request of the Portuguese Government, which held the Presidency of the Community during the first half of 1992.

Six hundred people attended, representing those responsible for and those specialising in health and safety in the twelve Member States.

Under the presidency of Mr José A. Silva Peneda, President of the Council of Social Affairs Ministers, representing Prof. Anibal Antonio Cavaco Silva, Prime Minister, Mrs Papandreou, Member of the Commission, Mr Capucho, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Mr Van Velzen, Chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Social Affairs, Mr Castle, Member of UNICE, Mr Buschak, member of the ETUC and Mrs Pinto MarvÆo, Director-General of Portugal's Ministry of Labour, spoke on the subject of health and safety at work.

A press conference given by Mr A. Silva Peneda and Mrs Vasso Papandreou was relayed to Brussels by satellite, and audio-visual tools were used to present the results of a Eurobarometer survey on what people in Europe think about health and safety at work.

b) Organisation of a European colloquium to close the European Year

At the request of the Danish Government, which will hold the Presidency of the Community during the first six months of 1993, it is planned to hold the closing conference in Copenhagen on 25 and 26 February 1993.

Preparations are in hand.

c) Organisation of conferences, colloquia and/or seminars in all Member States

The Advisory Steering Committee approved funding for the following conferences:

- B: Europreventie in het arbeidsmilieu - "Research and surveys on health and safety at work", Antwerp, 25-26/11/1992
- D: Two national conferences
 - Erfurt, 18/3/92
 - Dresden, 2/7/92
- E: Opening conference, 24/3/92
- F: "International Forum on Occupational Health", Paris, 8-9/9/92
- IRL: Health and Safety Authority - "Getting the health and safety message across", Dublin Castle, 20-21/3/92
- L: Provita Sana - "Well-being at work", Luxembourg, 30/11 to 2/12/92
- NL: -"Opening Congress" Amsterdam, 7-11/4/92
 - "Autumn Congress", Maastricht, 16-18/11/92
- P: Ministerio do Emprego e Segurança Social, "Health and safety at work - a factor in socio-economic cohesion", Lisbon, 2-4/6/92
- UK: Institute of Environmental Health Officers, "Health and safety enforcement in Europe", London, 9-11/11/92.

Projects have yet to be forwarded by the relevant bodies in Greece, Denmark and Italy.

2. a) Organisation of an audio-visual festival

It was agreed to organise a "Video film festival on training and information in the field of occupational health and safety" on 15, 16 and 17 October 1992 in Thessaloniki. The aim is to provide information on what is available and to promote the exchange of information and experience between firms and training bodies in the Member States by means of health and safety videos.

By the closing date of 19 June 1992 the Commission had received 319 applications (in comparison, the international film and video festival organised by the ISSA in 1990 received 175 applications).

A preselection jury was organised, comprising representatives of the Member States, and two meetings were arranged by the Commission unit concerned.

The jury's role was to select the films to be shown at the festival and to define the competition categories.

The Commission is currently working on the practical arrangements for the festival.

b) Promotion of television programmes and videos, dealing particularly with the most dangerous branches of work

Representatives of the main television networks in the twelve Member States were informed about the aims of the Year at two meetings held in Luxembourg. Following these meetings the Commission received 22 proposals for programmes. For financial reasons, it was decided to provide financial assistance for only 14, at least one for each Member State. Programmes are currently being prepared in Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

In spite of certain problems, particularly with some programmes which were extremely expensive and not entirely consistent with the aims of the Year, the Commission is still trying to encourage contributions from those Member States which have not yet submitted any proposals.

In addition, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and Portugal have produced programmes which have been or are going to be shown without any Community funding.

3. a) Production of booklets and stickers on the Community's policy on safety, hygiene and health at work

Following a tender procedure the following material was produced:

- a brochure introducing the Year and containing a grant application form;
- a general information brochure on the Year, its aims and its themes;
- an information brochure for the general public. Its illustrations are based on the figures used for the poster campaign;
- a special brochure for SMEs;
- an analytical report on the survey on "Europeans and health and safety at work";
- a bulletin produced for the opening conference, giving information from the NLCs;
- HYGEIA, a monthly information bulletin produced in conjunction with the European Foundation for the Improvement of Working Conditions;
- information leaflets for general distribution;
- a video cassette giving the main results of the Eurobarometer survey, distributed to the NLCs.

A series of special reports is currently being drawn up:

- one on "working with dangerous products";
- one on "training in occupational health and safety";
- one on "statistics".

Stocks of these publications are available to the NLCs, and copies were also sent to the Commission's and European Parliament's Information Offices and the Euro Info Centres. The Commission will supply this documentation on request, particularly to those able to disseminate the information.

b) Logo design and poster campaigns

- Following a tender procedure a logo was selected. As the emblem for the Year it symbolises the following:
 - . there are twelve stars, representing the nations of Europe, forming a circle symbolising union against a sky-blue background;
 - . in the circle are two hands symbolising human activity. The hands are joined in a position which suggests protection and therefore safety;
 - . in the centre is an ideogram of a spanner representing man at work.
- Following a tender procedure an advertising firm was selected to produce posters. The posters were designed to illustrate the four themes set out in the Council Decision, using the logo and slogans devised with the National Liaison Committees. The posters exist in various formats and versions (4 individual theme posters plus one incorporating all four images), and copies have been supplied to the National Liaison Committees.
- Following a tender procedure and in view of the high cost involved, the Commission decided not to go ahead with the poster campaign or to purchase advertising space.

To date, the Commission has committed ECU 1 822 375 for these actions out of the total of ECU 3 650 000 allocated for actions under Section II A of the Council Decision.

IV) EXECUTION OF SECTION II B OF THE ANNEX TO THE COUNCIL DECISION: ACTIONS COFINANCED FROM THE COMMUNITY BUDGET

By 1/7/92 336 projects arising from actions co-financed from the 1992 budget had been put forward by the National Liaison Committees, approved by the Advisory Steering Committee and agreed by the Commission.

By that date ECU 3 839 437 had been committed for these projects out of the total of ECU 4 050 000 allocated for actions under Section II B of the Council Decision (52.5% of the overall budget allocated).

V) OTHER ACTIONS

1. Projects put forward by European organisations

The Commission received 50 projects from European organisations or organisers planning a transnational action (involving at least two Member States).

The funding requested totalled ECU 4 424 152. The Council Decision of 25 July 1991 makes no provision for funding for such projects and the Commission is trying to find an appropriate solution.

2. Press and public relations

Various channels have been used to forward information to the national media. The National Liaison Committees, the Commission's Information Offices in the Member States and the Euro Info Centres were asked to set up a network for the regular distribution of information.

Through this network a list has been drawn up of the main publications and journalists specialising in occupational safety in Europe, and these have received regular information.

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Radio and television networks in the Member States were also contacted and have broadcast information in various news formats.
Through cooperation with the Spokesman's Service information was widely distributed to journalists accredited to the Community Institutions when the Year was launched.
The Commission issued two press statements.

3. Partnership

The Commission is trying to encourage the setting up of self-financed projects or actions. For this purpose, a meeting was organised on 12 December 1991 in Brussels for around 100 European sectoral organisations. The aim of the meeting, which was chaired by Mr J. Degimbe, Director-General of DG V, was to give these organisations information which they could pass on to their members. Four trade union organisations, two employers' organisations from the public or "mixed" sectors, some 20 employers' organisations from the private sector and a number of European-wide private companies have already started projects relating to the aims of the Year.

4. Use of the logo

In order to give the Year a higher profile, companies and associations are authorised to use the logo provided that they fulfil certain specific criteria and that they apply for permission to do so.
Over 800 applications have been granted by the NLCs at national level and 23 by the Commission at Community level, including 8 from sectoral professional organisations, 9 from international companies and 6 from international public non-profit-making organisations.
To prevent any unauthorised use, particularly commercial, the logo has been copyrighted. A graphics manual has been produced to ensure that a standard logo is used.

5. Promotional material

Small quantities of the following were produced: flags, banners, stickers, pins, badges, pens, T-shirts, attache cases, bags, etc.
A poster showing the logo and the title of the Year was also printed.
The material was distributed to the National Liaison Committees, the Commission's and European Parliament's Information Offices and the Euro Info Centres, and it is supplied for conferences and other events on request.

6. Competitions

Two competitions are planned, one for training products and the other for press articles.

- The competition on "Education and Training in Prevention" is being organised by the International Social Security Association with the support of the Commission. Prizes will be awarded for the best education and training products on the prevention of health and safety hazards. It is intended for all sectors from schools to firms.
- A competition for journalists is being organised with the FEIEA(1). Prizes will be awarded for the best press articles on the themes of the Year by writers from both the business press and the general press.

It is planned to award the prizes at the closing ceremony for the Year. Other competitions may be organised.

(1) FEIEA: Federation of European Industrial Editors Associations

7. Philately

The Directors of Postal Services in each country were requested to support the issue of a special stamp showing the logo and the creation of a postmark on the same subject. The United Kingdom, Portugal, Germany, Greece and Luxembourg have agreed. The other Member States said that the request had come too late for them to be able to comply.

VI) PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

The European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, a decision of the European Institutions, has received a very favourable reception from almost all economic sectors in the European Community.

There are three main reasons for this:

- First, workers and employers feel a great and real need for information on occupational health and safety from the Community. This was made clear by the results of the Eurobarometer survey in March 1991.
- Second, workers' and employers' organisations have been heavily and directly involved in the information campaign, in particular through the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work. The messages of the Year and information relating to it have been widely distributed through the channels available to these organisations.
- Third, most of the National Liaison Committees have been highly motivated in their involvement.

The interest felt was reflected in the fact that the National Liaison Committees had received 1 296 projects by 7 May 1992.

By 1 July 1992 almost 400 projects had received direct funding from the Community, and these will lead to a large number of "spin-off" activities without Community finance (for example, there have been 800 or so applications for permission to use the logo for specific measures).

However, some of the target groups have not yet received adequate coverage. Although 60% of the projects relate to small and medium-sized businesses, these still constitute a major category which is difficult to reach despite its keen interest and demand for information. For this reason more specifically targeted measures are planned for the second half of the Year, together with special measures for young vocational trainees.

For information, the total cost of the projects for which grant applications were received in 1992 by the National Liaison Committees and which are entirely consistent with the aims and priorities of the Year is over ECU 25 million, whereas the budget allocated is only ECU 7.7 million.