

Project Proposal

**Improvement of
Health and Safety at
the workplace as
target for Social
Dialogue**



Background

- When REACH was presented in 2003, benefits of reduction of occupational risks were regarded as important
- Social partners have always doubted reported figures
- Contribution to further reduce risks was regarded as core competence of social dialogue
- This could also contribute to competitiveness of European Society and Economy
- Competences and responsibilities in chemical industry are high

In detail

- Chemical industry in EU 15 has fortunately rather low record of occupational diseases related to chemicals
- Compensation instead of prevention does still play a role in some countries
- Downstream users have higher number of occupational diseases caused by chemicals
- Recommendations and sharing of good practice could help to improve standards

Our proposal

- Social partners should look together for ways of improvement
- Need for a specific approach taking regional and sector differences into consideration
- This could be a way to deliver benefits directly
- This could involve other sectors as well in the future

Preparatory workshop

- Should fix details of the project together with internal and external experts
- 20 people from different groups/partners involved
- 1-day meeting: 10 July 2007 in Brussels

First work-shop

- Health and safety in the chemical industry in EU 15 to evaluate good practise focussing on France and Germany
- 32 participants from different countries
- 1-day meeting: 9 to 10 July 2007 in Brussels

Second work-shop

- Health and safety in chemical industry in CEE countries focussing on Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary
- 30 participants from different EU-countries with focus on CEE
- 1-day meeting: new dates need to be fixed for meeting in Bratislava

Third work shop

- Health and safety in downstream user industries with focus on agriculture
- 30 participants from agriculture sector and chemical industry
- 1-day meeting: 24 to 25 October in Barcelona

Final Conference

- Going beyond REACH: a responsibility for social partners
- Evaluation of results from the workshops
- 50 participants from the previous workshops
- 3-day conference: 11 to 14 of February 2008 in Brussels

Follow up

- Meeting to discuss further steps including documents to be published, but also involvement of more sub sectors and downstream sectors
- 20 participants involved in the project and from more sectors
- 1-day meeting: 2 to 3 of April 2008