



***ECEG-EMCEF  
Working Group Meeting of  
Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee  
In the European Chemical Industry***

***WG Responsible Care, Health and  
Safety***

*Brussels – Belgium  
29 February 2008*

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**Meeting of Experts to Examine Instruments,  
Knowledge, Advocacy,  
Technical Cooperation and International  
Collaboration  
as Tools with a view to Developing a Policy  
Framework for Hazardous Substances**

*Geneva – Switzerland  
December 10-13 , 2007*

*At its 297th Session (November 2006), the Governing Body of the International Labour Office decided that the purpose of the Meeting should be to discuss how ILO instruments and other tools concerning occupational safety and health and hazardous substances could be best incorporated into a new policy framework and action plan.*



## The ILO Meeting :

- examined best practices and appropriate national legal frameworks to promote safe and healthy working environments;
- reviewed the roles of governments, employers and workers' organizations;
- discussed ways of establishing tripartite consultation mechanisms on occupational safety and health;
- handled opportunities of ensuring that workers and their organizations participate in the consultation mechanisms and thereby build a preventative safety and health culture at work.



## The ILO Meeting also :

- considered the impact of new and ongoing initiatives related to hazardous substances.
- a specific attention was given in particular to the UN-wide Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and Globally Harmonised Systems of Labelling (GHS).
- adopted recommendations that will be the basis of subsequent ILO action in the future.



## **Fundamental Pillars of Action Plan**

1. Social Dialogue
2. Information and Knowledge
3. Implementation through ILO instruments
4. International Cooperation
5. Awareness Raising and Capacity Building
6. Good Governance and Knowledge Dissemination
7. Preventive and Protective Systems aimed at risk reduction



## **1. Social Dialogue**

- Joint support and participation of workers and employers are essential for success
- Promotion of ratification or implementation of ILO conventions 170, 174, 187 and OSH instruments
- Promotion of wide implementation of ILO Guidelines on OSH (2001) and Global Strategy (2003)
- Mobilization of resources OSH training and support national OSH programmes
- Contribution to implementation of SAICM through a partnership approach



## **2. Information and Knowledge**

- Acquisition, management and dissemination of information and knowledge need to be continuous
- Assessment and evaluation for new chemicals
- Harmonisation of hazard identification, assessment and management methods at international level
- Promotion of universal access to reliable info
- Needs of all workers, in particular vulnerable and precarious workers
- Monitoring of safety in use of new technologies, such as nanotechnology

### **3. Implementation through ILO instruments**

- Convention 155, 1981, Occupational Health and Safety
- Convention 170, 1990, Chemicals
- Convention 174, 1994, Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents
- Convention 187, 2006, Promotional Framework Convention for OSH
  
- ILO Guidelines on OSH, 2001
- ILO Global Strategy on OSH, 2003
  
- No consensus on substances being obsolete and in need of revision





## **4. International Cooperation**

- Contribution to SAICM implementation
- Actively cooperate with IOMC members (FAO, ILO, OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR and WHO)
- Strengthen the ILO's contribution to the SAICM process
- Reinforce technical collaboration with UNITAR on GHS
- The plan of action should be the basis for the ILO's contribution to the 2nd International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) which is going to take place in May 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland



## **5. Awareness Raising and Capacity Building**

- Within Decent Work programmes, ILO should mobilize resources to integrate chemicals safety into national OSH programmes
- In cooperation with IOMC members, ILO should cooperate with social partners and governments to improve sound management of chemicals at national and global levels, particularly for SMEs
- Providing information and training on GHS implementation
- Assistance to countries in developing and maintaining national OSH programmes



## **6. Good Governance and Knowledge Dissemination**

- Sound management of hazardous substances requires effective and efficient governance through **TRANSPARENCY, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, and ACCOUNTABILITY** of all stakeholders.
- Promotion of ratification of ILO Conventions 170, 174 and 187, and establishment of national OSH systems, programmes and profiles
- Making sure that specific needs of all workers, in particular vulnerable and precarious workers are taken into account



## **7. Preventive and Protective Systems at risk reduction**

- Prevention entails implementation of preventive and protective systems
- Promoting measures according to ILO OSH 2001
- Ensuring the needs of all workers subject to exposure to chemicals that may pose a hazard/risk
- Implementing effective risk management
- Applying appropriately precautionary approach with a view to achieve that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to minimize adverse effects on the health of workers