



HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

#SocialRights

9 April 2019

HEALTHY, SAFE AND WELL-ADAPTED WORK ENVIRONMENT AND DATA PROTECTION

“Workers have the right to a high level of protection of their health and safety at work. Workers have the right to a working environment adapted to their professional needs and which enables them to prolong their participation in the labour market.[...]”

Principle 10, European Pillar of Social Rights

WHAT IS THE COMMISSION DOING?

Making the EU health and safety framework future-proof, ensuring a level-playing field across Europe and improving compliance and enforcement on the ground

Why?

- ▶ EU legislation on health and safety at work exists for over 30 years.
- ▶ The EU has been a frontrunner in high standards of worker protection against health and safety risks at work.
- ▶ To keep this up, the Commission is taking action to update and modernise relevant EU legislation and policy.

What?

▶ Updating outdated provisions of EU Directives on health and safety at work, in particular for:

▷ Biological agents (2000/54)

▷ Medical assistance on board (92/29)

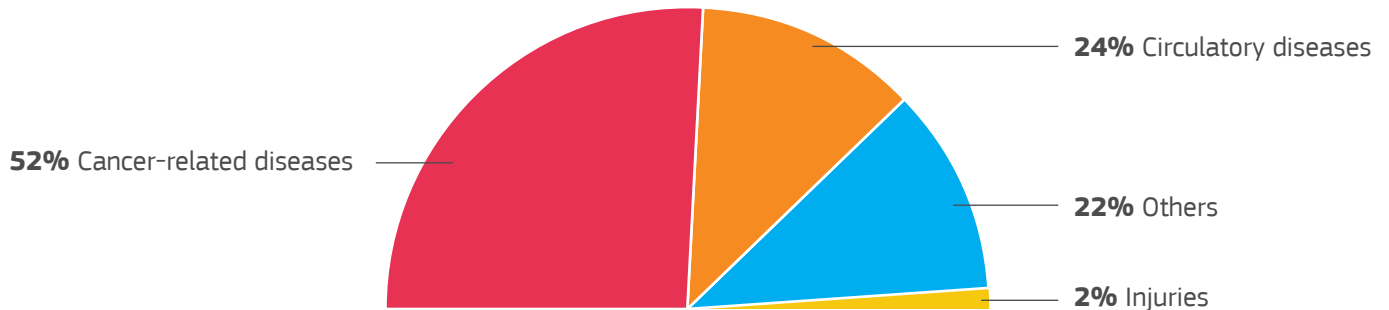
▷ Personal protective equipment (89/656)

→ Improvement of EU rules on health and safety will further improve **workers’** protection at the workplace



→ **Businesses**, especially small ones, will benefit from clearer and simpler rules to follow, while the administrative burden will be reduced

→ **Better compliance** with the legislation will be ensured



Cancer is the first cause of work-related deaths in the EU



Why?

-  ▶ Cancer causes more than half of all work-related deaths in the EU.
-  ▶ Need for limiting exposure to cancer-causing substances at work, by setting binding exposure limits.

The Commission's actions




-  ▶ The three successive updates of the **Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive**,¹ will limit the exposure to further 26 cancer-causing substances at the workplace.
 - ▶ This will improve protection for around 40 million people and help save the lives of more than 100,000 workers over the next 50 years.
-  ▶ Work on new or stricter exposure limits and other provisions continues.
 - ▶ Four The fourth list of indicative exposure limits set under the **Chemical Agents Directive**,² will further protect workers against chemical agents at work.
 - ▶ Work on additional sets of indicative exposure limits is ongoing.

HELPING BUSINESSES TO COMPLY WITH EU HEALTH AND SAFETY RULES

Why?



The Commission provides help:

-  ▶ By giving guidance for employers with practical tips to facilitate risk assessment and foster effective implementation of rules.
-  ▶ By giving advice on how to deal with rapidly increasing risks such as psychosocial, ergonomic or ageing related-risks.
-  ▶ By increasing the availability of free online tools that help small and microenterprises in conducting risk assessments.

1/ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=URISERV:c11137&from=EN>
2/ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:01998L0024-20140325>