

Health and Safety at Work is a Responsibility

It Saves Lives!

The European Commission will mark the importance of health and safety at work with a panel on Monday, 29 February at 11:00-13:00 at Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce in Nicosia. The aim of the panel is to generate discussion amongst all stakeholders about how to address health and safety at work. The EU policy and examples from other European countries will be presented at the event by an EU expert*.

To better protect the more than 217 million workers in the EU from work-related accidents and diseases, the European Commission presented a Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014 – 2020, which identifies key challenges and strategic objectives for health and safety at work and presents key actions and instruments to address these. The Framework aims at ensuring that the EU continues to play a leading role in the promotion of high standards for working conditions both within Europe and internationally, in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy.

“People have the right to work without facing health or safety risks in the workplace. Yet every year more than 3 million workers are victims of a serious accident at work in the EU and 4,000 die in workplace accidents. Work related accidents and diseases affect all sectors and professions, irrespective of whether people are sitting behind a desk, driving a truck or working in a mine or on a construction site. They not only cause personal suffering but also impose high costs on companies and society as a whole. The Strategic Framework aims to contribute to improving job quality and job satisfaction, while improving the competitiveness and productivity of European companies, especially small businesses, and reducing costs for social security systems,” said László Andor, European Commissioner Responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

Background:

Health and safety at work is one of the areas where the EU has had the biggest impact – with a solid legal framework covering the maximum number of risks with the minimum number of regulations.

The Commission also works with the European Agency for Health and Safety at Work and the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions to disseminate information, offer guidance and promote healthy working environments – particularly in small businesses.

Directive 89/391/EEC on measures to improve safety and health at work:

- encourages improvements in occupational health and safety in all sectors of activity, both public and private.



- **promotes workers' rights to make proposals relating to health and safety, to appeal to the competent authority and to stop work in the event of serious danger.**
- **seeks to adequately protect workers and ensure that they return home in good health at the end of the working day.**

* The EU Expert Tatjana Petriček, is the Head of the OSH Department in Slovenia and her main duties have included legislative work (preparing strategy, acts and secondary legislation in OSH and labour inspection field), harmonization with the EU legislation in pre accession period, and membership on various boards.

Interested individuals can get more information on this event on the EU Infopoint Facebook page [f/abbilgi](#) or by contacting the EU Infopoint: info@abbilgi.eu, 228 2577 and 11A Hasene Ilgaz Street, Köşklüçiftlik Nicosia.

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