Perspectives and Challenges of the Woodworking Industries in Europe

• Trade Union Perspective on formaldehyde and other OHS issues

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CEI-Bois EPF EFBWW Social Dialogue OHS Seminar 7 December 2017 in Porto
OHS IN THE WOOD INDUSTRY

**Vision**
- Healthy workplaces and high quality jobs
- Long working life within the industry

**Challenges**
- Traditional risks still exist: Noise, vibration, heavy lifting, accidents, psychosocial issues, dangerous substances
- Need for a holistic approach on prevention
- Design out risks
- Do a proper risk assessment
- Use the right mix of prevention measures
- Training
- Worker participation + cooperation

**Prevention strategy ...**
MAKE OHS AN INVESTMENT

Investment in OSH makes a lot of sense

• It improves people's lives
• It leads to improved business productivity
• The employer will have a return in double for every euro spent on OSH
• The EU must continue investing in OSH for it to remain at the vanguard and ensure effective worker protection

**COSTS OF WORK-RELATED CANCER IN THE EU**

- 2-12% of cancer deaths may relate to occupational exposure to carcinogens

- Total costs of work-related cancer in the EU: between €270 and €610 billion each year, which represents 1.8% to 4.1% of the GDP of EU

*Source: Study by RPA & FoBiG, ETUI report November 2017*
Final Statement and Joint Declaration of the REF wood project

- Given the concerns over potential health risks associated with exposure to formaldehyde, the social partners in the European woodworking industries agree to stimulate all concerned companies in the sector to use the results of the project very actively ...
WOODWORKING INDUSTRIES PROJECT 2018

2018 project

1st perspective

• Have the recommendations of the 2010 REF project been applied?
• Have good practices been exchanged all over Europe?
• Which other OHS challenges shall be dealt with?

2nd perspective

Formaldehyde is classified as carc 1B in the CLP
⇒ within the scope of the CMD
• How to comply with the inclusion of formaldehyde into the CMD?
FORMALDEHYDE IN THE CMD

Recommendation from the Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits for Formaldehyde

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-hour TWA</td>
<td>0.3 ppm (0.369 mg/m³)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEL</td>
<td>0.6 ppm (0.738 mg/m³)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLV</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional categorisation:</td>
<td>SCOEL carcinogen group C (genotoxic carcinogen with a mode-of-action based threshold)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notation:</td>
<td>Sensitisation (Dermal)</td>
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The present Recommendation was adopted by SCOEL on 30 June 2016.

- Level playing field in Europe
- Preventive measures of CMD
FORMALDEHYDE IN THE CMD

- Risk Assessment
- Preventive measures
  - Substitution
  - Technical measures
  - Organizational measures
  - Personal Protection
- Training and instruction
- Social dialogue is key
- Worker participation is key
ACTION GUIDE ON FORMALDEHYDE?

• Important step forward
• Indicate a strong willingness to improve prevention
• Involvement of workers + transparency

• Strong focus on the risk assessment
• Strong focus on the OP in STOP
• Room for improvement on prevention strategy and preventive measures
• Should built on CMD and member states provisions
ACTION GUIDE ON FORMALDEHYDE?

- Is the formaldehyde the main OSH topic of the project?
- Work on the content of the guide
- Test the ideas of the guide
- Learn from the implementation
- Search for good practice on
  - risk assessment
  - technical measures for prevention
TOWARDS CLARIFICATION

1. How to ensure that the CMD is built upon?
2. How should the action guide come into force at national level?
3. How to involve national trade unions and workers at the workplace?
4. Etc.
• Thank you for your attention