

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE EFTA STATES

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SUBCOMMITTEE IV ON FLANKING AND HORIZONTAL POLICIES

EEA EFTA Comment

on the public consultation on the new EU occupational safety and health policy framework

1. The EEA EFTA States - Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway - would like to thank the European Commission for the opportunity to comment on the EU occupational safety and health (OSH) policy framework. The EEA EFTA States have studied the evaluation of the European Strategy on Safety and Health at Work 2007-2012 with great interest and have received feedback from the relevant ministries.
 2. The EEA EFTA States have found the 2007-2012 strategy to be highly relevant and its impact at national level has been consistently positive. Therefore, the EEA EFTA States would welcome a new OSH strategy for the period 2013-2020 and fully support the Commission in this important matter.
 3. The EEA EFTA States' opinion is that a new strategy should largely build on the same principles as previous strategies. Central measures in a new strategy should include active development of new legislation and emphasis on dialogue, with and between the social partners, and should highlight specific topics and areas to focus on. Pulmonary and cardiovascular disorders as well as psychosocial risk factors could, for example, be added as important topics.
 4. The evaluation report points out some of the main challenges, e.g. the health and safety risks of new or emergent technologies and the implementation of the EU OSH legal framework in small and medium-sized enterprises and micro-enterprises. The EEA EFTA States are of the opinion that these challenges should be thoroughly assessed in order to achieve even better results in the next strategy. It will also be necessary to establish a broad dissemination plan adapted to different countries and target groups.
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