

THE 24<sup>TH</sup> HAZARDS CONFERENCE 2013

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# The EU's Health and Safety strategy: The untold story

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- 1. Occupational health and safety in the EU**
- 2. History the EU- OSH strategy**
- 3. How can unions influence?**

# STATE OF OSH IN EUROPE

- Demographic shifts affecting the European workforce.
- Job-related stress has been increasing.
- Some 'old' risks still remain a problem and may impact in new ways: psychosocial issues and musculoskeletal disorders.
- New and emerging risks: new materials, nanomaterials, new industry sectors.
- Lack of awareness is the principal barrier to prevention.
- Reduction of resources on OSH and preventive services.
- Few workers report a good work life balance.
- Workers die because of unsafe practices.

Lack of awareness is the principal barrier to prevention

Reduction of resources on OSH and preventive services

Few workers report a good work life balance

Workers die because of unsafe practices

# THE HEALTH AND SAFETY STRATEGY

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## HISTORY

- 1978:** First action programme for health and safety at work in the EU.
- 1987:** Adoption of the Single European Act  
[Health and Safety at work explicit in the Treaty]
- 2001:** EU strategy adopted for the period 2007 – 2012
- 2011:** New strategy announced for the period 2013 – 2020  
EP ask for a new strategy

**2012:** In the Luxembourg Advisory Committee on Health and Safety, social partners and governments adopted an unanimous opinion in the plenary meeting of December 2012, asking the Commission to draw up the final text of a new strategy without delay.

The EC informally announced a delay arguing that the priority was the financial **crisis**.

Under the Cyprus Presidency, EC announces the opening of an internet public consultation

**A bypass of the social partner agreements**





**CONTRADICTORY  
MESSAGES**

## **2013:** ETUI Conference on the European Health and Safety Strategy 2013-2020

Commissioner László Andor announces a new delay:  
The internet consultation would be available in 3 months.

The consultation is a new democratic way to evaluate the EU policy.

## 2013: Exchange of letters:

- April 11, 2013: From ETUC & workers group spoke person to Barroso.
- April 16, 2013: From: Barroso to ETUC & workers group spoke person.

“Your letter has been transmitted to the responsible cabinet, which is looking into the points you have raised and will respond to you rapidly on the President's behalf. For any additional information, may I suggest you contact Mr László Andor, Member of the Commission responsible for employment, social affairs and inclusion (e-mail:Laszlo.andor@ec.europa.eu).”



**HOW CAN UNIONS INFLUENCE?**  
.....  
**AN INVESTMENT**

# HOW CAN UNIONS INFLUENCE? ..... AN INVESTMENT

EU – OSH legislation  
guaranties protection to workers.  
Impedes deregulation

Big debates need to be solved at EU level (MSD, CMR, EMF Directives).

Solidarity is essential for the EU policy.



# Thank you

## **The Untold Story: the EU's Health and Safety**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQ4mnHGRcqM&feature=c4-overview-vl&list=PLEMGazkRRWoGe0o22HIJCLRMNrgChCbTk> **Strategy**

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