



NEPSI signatories' position on the proposal of the European Parliament Employment Committee to annex relevant social dialogue agreements to the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive in the second wave revision, as useful guidance and tools

May 2018

The signatory organisations (listed below) of the *Social Dialogue Agreement on Workers Protection through the good handling and use of crystalline silica and products containing it* (in short, the NEPSI SDA) wish to express their support for the recognition given to social dialogue agreements in the report of the European Parliament Employment Committee on the second wave revision of the carcinogens and mutagens directive 2004/37/EC¹.

In this report, a new Article 13(a) reads: *“The Commission shall encourage the social partners to conclude social dialogue agreements providing guidance and tools to support the effective implementation of the employers' obligations laid down in this Directive. Those agreements shall be listed in Annex IVa. That list shall be regularly updated.”*

The NEPSI SDA would be the first SDA listed in the new Annex IVa. NEPSI signatories welcome this insertion because it gives recognition to the value of good practices for workers' health protection, such as NEPSI good practices, and it acknowledges all the efforts the partners have put into place to improve occupational health protection over the last 12 years. It encourages them to continue and to further develop the NEPSI SDA.

In general, it gives a strong impetus to social dialogue and it is in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights. It encourages NEPSI Social Partners and other industries willing to conclude such SDAs to continue their good work.

As Commissioner Marianne Thyssen stated at the 10th anniversary of the NEPSI Agreement:

“Setting limit values through EU legislation is instrumental for protection of workers' health. But it is the quality of implementation and enforcement on the ground - on each factory floor, in each mine, on each construction site - that will determine whether lives are saved. That is where we see the true value of the bottom-up approach, which has driven the success of NEPSI.”

If existing social dialogue agreements and future ones aiming to provide practical guidelines to improve workers' protection are officially recognised in an annex of the Directive, this is a strong motivation for industry and workers to continue working together in this field.

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2018-0142&format=XML&language=EN>



What is the NEPSI SDA?

Concerned by potential exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica, a diverse group of industries and their social partners signed the Social Dialogue "Agreement (SDA) on Workers' Health Protection Through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products Containing it" in 2006. Together, the signatories form NEPSI, the European Network on Silica, to implement effective protection measures and monitor the application of the Agreement over the years. Through this Agreement, the signatories are committed to control the exposure of workers to dust and crystalline silica by applying good practices. It is the first European multi-sectoral agreement (OJ C 279, 17.11.2006).

NEPSI signatories:

IndustriAll European Trade Union

ASTA Worldwide - Agglomerated Stones Association

BIBM – The International Bureau for Precast Concrete

CAEF – European Foundry Association

CEEMET - European employers' organisation of the metal, engineering and technology-based industries

CEMBUREAU – The European Cement Association

Cerame-Unie - The European Ceramic Industry Association

EMO – European Mortar Organization

ERMCO – European Ready Mixed Concrete Organisation

EURIMA - -The European Insulation Manufacturers Association

EUROMINES – The European Association of Mining Industries

EUROROC - European Federation of Natural Stone Industries

EXCA – The European Expanded Clay Association

ECSPA – European Calcium Silicate Producers Association (voluntary)

FEVE – The European Container Glass Federation

GlassFibreEurope – The European Glass Fibre Producers Association

GLASS FOR EUROPE – Trade association for Europe's manufacturers of building, automotive and transport glass

IMA-Europe – The European Industrial Minerals Association

UEPG – European Aggregates Association