

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

7TH JOINT EU/US



CONFERENCE ON
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

BRUSSELS, CROWNE PLAZA
11-13 JULY 2012





Co-operation on OSH between the European Union and the United States of America has successfully developed since the 1995 New Transatlantic Agenda through permanent dialogue and exchange of information. Since 1998, two-yearly conferences - jointly organised by the European Commission (DG EMPL) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the US Department of Labor - have provided for bilateral fora where topical OSH-related issues are periodically explored with a view to reinforcing the co-operation and fostering the partnership between EU and US in the area of occupational safety and health.

The current edition is the seventh of this kind: previous conferences took place in Luxembourg (1998), San Francisco (2000), Lemnos (2003), Orlando (2005), Cascais (2007) and Boston (2010).

The structure of the conference will be the same as for the sixth past editions: a two and a half-day event, with two plenary sessions and four parallel workshops discussing subjects mutually agreed upon by both sides. A special technical session on OSH statistics will take place on the second day.

WEDNESDAY, July 11

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast meeting (EU/US Steering Committee, Chairs and Scribes)

Room Infinity (2nd floor)

8:00 a.m.

Registration

9:00 a.m.

Opening Plenary Session

Ballroom (Ground floor)

Conference moderator:
Antonio Cammarota,
Principal Administrator, Health, Safety and Hygiene at Work (EMPL B3)

WELCOME ADDRESSES

9:15 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.

EU – Mr. Koos Richelle
Director General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

9:25 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.

US
Mr. William E. Kennard
US Ambassador to the European Union

9:35 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

EU Presidency of the Council
Mr. Leandros Nicolaidis,
Director, Department of Labour Inspection, Nicosia, Cyprus

9:45 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.

US
Mr. William Wiatrowski
Associate Commissioner for Compensation and Working Conditions,
Bureau of Labour Statistics, (BLS), US Department of Labour

9:55 a.m.-10:05 a.m.

EU - Labour
Mr. Laurent Vogel
The European Trade Union Institute for Research, Education and Health & Safety

10:05 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

US – Labour
Mr. Michael J. Wright
Director, Health and Safety and Environment Department
United Steelworkers of America

10:15 a.m.-10:25 a.m.

EU - Industry
Mr. Kris De Meester
Business Europe

10:25 a.m.-10:35 a.m.

US - Industry
Mr. Joseph Van Houten
Senior Director of Worldwide Environment, Health and Safety, Johnson and Johnson

10:35 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

Presentation on EU/US Collaboration on the OSH Wiki

Coffee break: 11.00 a.m.-11.25 a.m.

Lobby of the Ballroom (Ground floor)

KEYNOTES ADDRESSES

11:25 a.m.

EU
Mr. Armindo Silva,
Director, Employment, Social Legislation and Social Dialogue, European Commission
(DG EMPL B)

11:45 a.m.

US
Mr. David Michaels, Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Lunch: 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Room Klimt (Ground floor)

1:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.

Plenary Session introduction of Workshops

Ballroom (Ground floor)

1:45 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Concurrent Workgroup Sessions

Crowne Plaza Ballroom (Ground floor), Rooms Harmony, Exploration and Evasion (1st floor)

Coffee break: 4:10 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

US Delegates Caucus

Room Harmony (1st floor)

EU Delegates Caucus

Room Exploration (1st floor)

7:30 p.m.

Formal Dinner

"Château de Grand-Bigard".

THURSDAY, July 12

8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Breakfast meeting (US/EU Steering Committee, Chairs and Scribes)

Room Infinity (2nd floor)

9:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m.

Plenary Session (Theme Setting)

Ballroom (Ground floor)

9:15 a.m.-12:00 a.m.

Concurrent Workgroup Sessions

Crowne Plaza Ballroom (Ground floor), Rooms Harmony, Exploration and Evasion (1st floor)

Special Session: OSH Statistics

Exchange of experience on Injury and Illness Reports

Room Inspiration (1st floor)

Coffee break: 10:40 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.

Lunch: 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Room Klimt (Ground floor)

1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Concurrent Workgroup Sessions

Crowne Plaza Ballroom (Ground floor), Rooms Harmony, Exploration and Evasion (1st floor)

Special Session: OSH Statistics

Exchange of experience on Injury and Illness Reports

Room Inspiration (1st floor)

Coffee break: 4:10 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

US Delegates Caucus

Room Harmony (1st floor)

EU Delegates Caucus

Room Exploration (1st floor)

7:30 p.m.

Informal dinner at the Hotel Crowne Plaza

Room Klimt (Ground floor)

FRIDAY, July 13

8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Breakfast meeting (US/EU Steering Committee, Chairs and Scribes)

Room Infinity (2nd floor)

9:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m.

Concurrent Workgroup Sessions

Crowne Plaza Ballroom (Ground floor), Rooms Harmony, Exploration and Evasion (1st floor)

Coffee break: 10:40 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Lunch: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Room Klimt (Ground floor)

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CLOSING PLENARY

Crowne Plaza Ballroom (Ground floor)

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Special Session: OSH Statistics
Exchange of experience on Injury and Illness

Chair US: Mr. David Michaels, Assistant Secretary, OSHA

Co-Chair EU: Mr. Armindo Silva, Director, (DG EMPL B)

Scribe: Ms. Miriam Schoenbaum
Statistician
Directorate of Evaluation and Analysis
Office of Statistical Analysis, OSH Administration

PRESENTATION OF TOPIC REPORTS

1:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Topic I: Nanotechnology at the workplace

Chair EU: Mr. Wim van Veelen, FNV, The Netherlands (Labour)

Co-chair US: Mr. Paul Schulte, Director,
Education and Information Division,
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (GOV)

Scribe US: Ms. Janet Carter, Health Scientist, Directorate of Standards and Guidance,
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (GOV)

2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Topic II: OELs for chemical substances

Chair US: Ms. Dorothy Dougherty
Director, Directorate of Standards and Guidance
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (GOV)

Co-chair EU: Mr. Herbert Bender
BASF AG, Germany (Industry)

Scribe EU: Mr. Hugh Robertson
Health and Safety Trades Union Congress, UK (Labour)

2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Topic III: OSH in a Green economy

Chair EU: Mr Colin Connor
Head of Energy Unit
Health and Safety Executive, UK (Labour)

Co-chair US: Mr Sanji Kanth
Safety Engineer, Directorate of Enforcement Programs, Office of General Industry
Enforcement
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (GOV)

Scribe US: Ms Leslie Nickels
Senior Science and Technical Advisor, Communication
And Research Translation Office, and Office of Global
Collaborations, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (GOV)

2:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m.

Topic IV: Prevention of Catastrophic accidents

Chair US: Mr Michael J. Wright
Director, Health and Safety and Environment Department
United Steelworkers of America (Labour)

Co-chair EU: Mr. Erik van Gils
Principal adviser, Head of the Chemical Risks Inspection Division,
Belgium (GOV)

Scribe EU: t.b.c.

2:45 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

Questions and answers

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Closing remarks

EU – Mr. Armindo Silva
European Commission DG EMPL-B

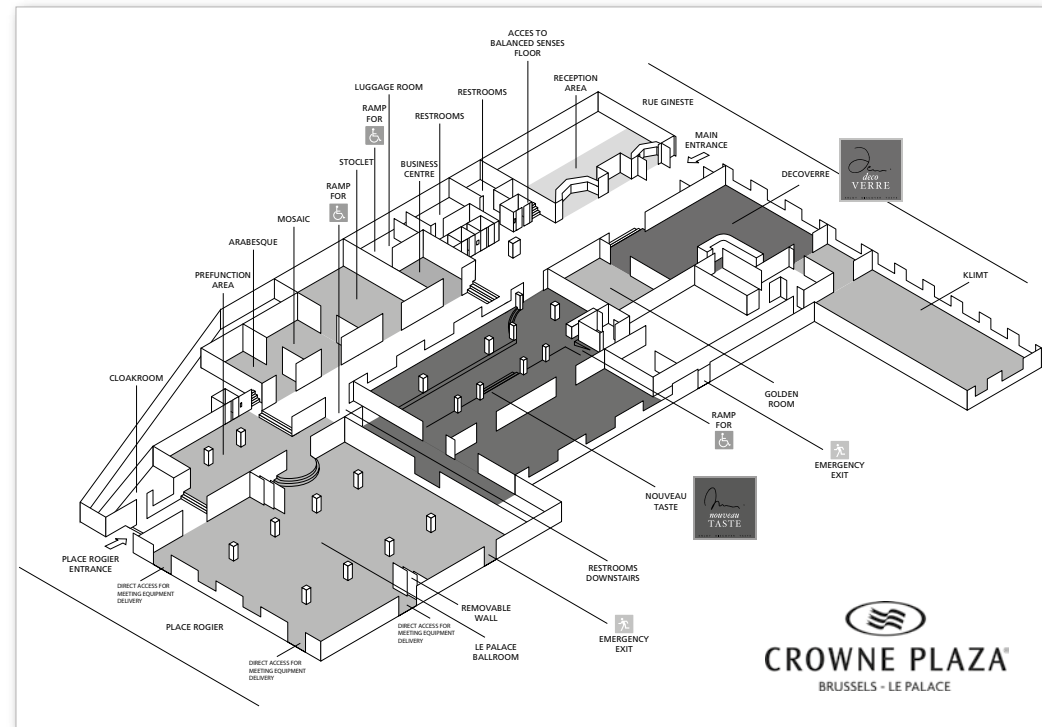
Ms. Margaret Seminario
Director, Department of Safety and Health,
American Federation of Labour
Congress of Industrial Organizations

Farewell drink

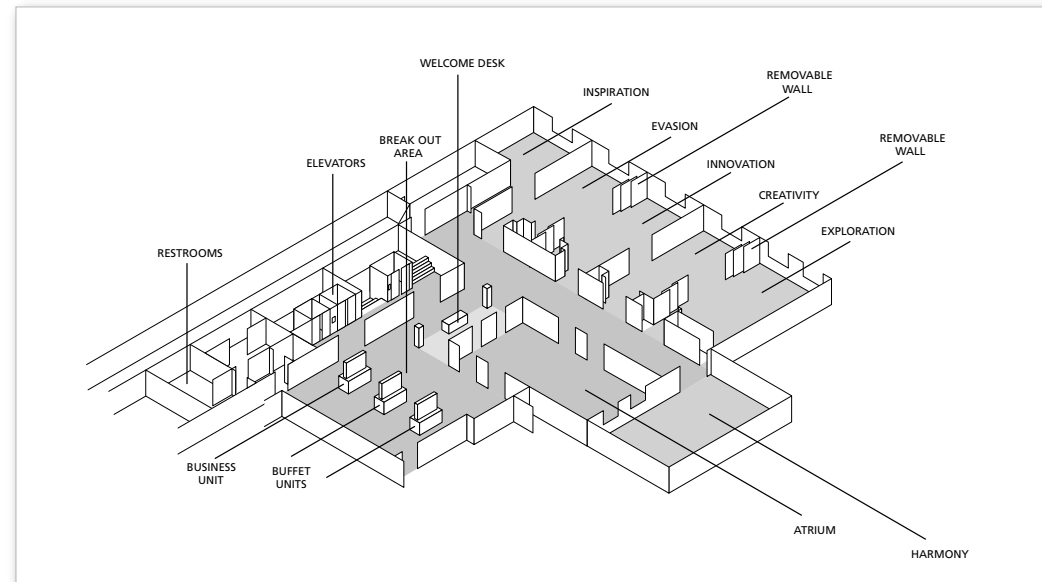
3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

EU/US Steering Commit

Lobby Ballroom



Ground floor



1st floor

SUBTOPICS AND FOCUS QUESTIONS

TOPIC I - NANO MATERIALS IN THE WORKPLACE

1. 'Gaps' in the legislative EU and US framework

Gaps related to particle-related hazards. Classification and labeling – REACH, National initiatives relating to traceability, risk communication, MSDS

- Which gaps and loopholes can be identified and how can these shortcomings solved? What is the actual state of the art at this moment concerning these gaps on the national level as well as on US/EU-level?

2. Establish criteria for identifying work-place hazards/risks

Knowledge gaps. Type of particle-related hazards (CMRS, oxidative stress, overload) MNMs in relation to exposure to PGNPs (process-generated NP). Interference with environmental background concentrations. Development of OELs, RELs, ... and/or generic limit values for nanomaterials.

- Given the fact that there are knowledge gaps (unknown properties of nanomaterials, incomplete information about their hazards etc), what approaches are at hand to guarantee a safe workplace?

3. Establish principles for measurements and monitoring

Measurement and characterization equipment and methodologies, limitations, standardization. Influence of agglomeration and aggregation phenomena.

- What principles can be defined for measurement and monitoring? What are the minimal requirements for risk assessment? Is a full health based assessment needed?

4. Establish principles for control

Administrative and engineering control. Risk assessment and evaluation, workers registration, periodic health surveillance, early warning systems

- Are the traditional' control measures sufficient for nano's at the workplace?

5. Establish foundation for risk management practices

Precautionary principle, ALARA, Control banding, Nano Reference Values

- What is precaution and prevention concerning the use of nanomaterials?(linked with)
- How can the precautionary principle be applied for managing nanomaterials?
- Which precautionary strategies can be applied for managing nanomaterials?

6. Establishing principles for developing positive S&H work cultures where workers are included in decision-making process

Working training, capacity building, ethical issues, workers participation, works' council, safety reps

- What should be done urgently to make employers and workers to increase awareness of the potential risks and the need to work safely in this field?
- How to realize a mutual consensus on precautionary control policy amongst the social partners and governmental institutions

TOPIC II - CHEMICALS

1. Establishing a streamlined process for OEL development

– unifying the process utilized in the US and EU regarding the type of data needed, the process to analyze data, and the presentation of findings, so countries can share analyses and cover more chemicals.

2. Examining how DNELs and OELs work together

– how will DNELs be used in the future.

3. Improving openness and transparency

– how can the US and EU work together to make information on chemicals publicly available and promote dialogue regarding chemical analysis.

Key Questions:

- Should countries continue to establish, or update, OELs for chemical substances?
- Given that there will never be a legal OEL for all substances in workplaces, how should priorities be set?
- Can strategies such as hazard banding make development of OELs easier?
- Are there alternative strategies to address broader workplace protections? For example, focus on the most hazardous chemical, and assume that controlling exposure to it will also protect workers from other chemicals in the same work area? Control banding?
- How will DNELs relate to legal levels set by countries? Will EU countries be able to, in effect, enforce DNELs? What are the advantages and disadvantages of allowing manufacturers to set such levels?
- Are there opportunities to harmonize the OEL process? If not the entire process (given the differences in legal requirements), can some agreement be reached on the type of data needed, the process to analyze data, and the presentation of findings, so countries could share analyses and thus cover more chemicals?
- Which procedures are in place to establish OELs for carcinogens and mutagens
- Safety measures / concepts for carcinogens and mutagens

TOPIC III - OSH in a GREEN ECONOMY

What does the future hold: Anticipating the impact of new technologies on workers health and safety in green jobs.

- Which of the industries in the green economy are growing at a faster pace when compared to the other green industries?
- Which occupations are in most demand in the emerging green economy? And what hazards may be encountered?

Understanding hazards, recognising risks: Identifying and assessing the key hazards and risks associated with the new green economy.

- How do we ensure we are focusing in the correct risks and hazards?
- How do we ensure we avoid unintended consequences of increasing risks from environmental and green measures?
- Are workers experiencing increased injuries and illness in this growing new economy?

Risk management approaches

- Which potential risk management approaches could most successfully control the risks in the green economy?
- How can prevention through design play a role in the green economy?
- Are there best practices in addressing workplace hazards and which mechanisms can be used to share them?
- What effective safety and management systems must be used in the evolving green economy?

The legislative and regulatory framework

- How can a supportive regulatory framework for the emerging green economy promote sensible management and control of the risks and hazards?
- How can a supportive regulatory framework promote the integration of worker safety and health policies and practices into green and / or sustainable practices and policies?
- Do the products supporting the green economy comply with the existing regulations?
- Are there regulation gaps in protecting workers? If so, are new regulations necessary in the expanding green economy?

TOPIC IV - PREVENTION OF CATASTROPHIC ACCIDENTS

1. Identification of common elements in catastrophic accidents

- Do catastrophes happen because of missed opportunities to recognize and stop initial deviations?
- Can near misses and small incidents predict bigger accidents?
- Or, is the development of catastrophes something entirely different from "smaller" incidents? If so, what other route can these take?
- What aspects of safety culture are important in the prevention of catastrophic accidents?
- Can "soft" factors (such as safety culture, climate, leadership, human factors) be made more tangible and measurable?
- Do economic factors play an important role?
- Is working with third parties (subcontracting, outsourcing) playing a role?
- Can collaboration and EU-US partnership be strengthened within the already existing international frameworks for sharing and analyzing lessons learned from major industrial accidents?
- What modeling concept is appropriate for catastrophes? Can the same model be used for other types of workplace accidents?

2) Recommendations for preventing catastrophic accidents

- Is the use of appropriate safety performance indicators, to get indication of any malfunctions and deviations, to be recommended as a good practice for predicting and preventing catastrophic accidents?
- If so, is there sufficient guidance on how to develop and implement such indicators (e.g. the OECD publications on Safety Performance Indicators)? What additional guidance should be developed in this area?
- Is the MAPP and SMS approach of the Seveso II Directive suitable on a broader scale for the prevention of all kind of catastrophic accidents at the workplace?
- Can the existing international standards or guidelines on OSHMS and/or other existing guidelines on the prevention of industrial accidents be recommended to be used as a reference model or framework for catastrophic accident prevention?
- Is there a need for more elaborated guidance or additional specifications on how to develop and implement a SMS for controlling catastrophic accident hazards at the workplace?
- How to select the most appropriate preventive measures given a limited budget?
- Is a specific approach needed or more suitable for specific hazardous activities (e.g. mining, off shore, LPG tank storage facilities, ...) on which comprehensive safety standards are available to adequately control the major hazards related to such activities?
- Is a specific approach needed for small and medium sized companies? Or, is the approach activity driven and not company driven?
- Is there a need for recommendations on inspections by OSH Authorities in major hazardous companies?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of industry organisations, trade unions, individual companies and government organisations?

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