

JOINT US/EU



**CONFERENCE ON HEALTH
AND SAFETY AT WORK**

**Fourth Joint Conference on
Occupational Safety and Health**

**September 14 - 16, 2005
Orlando, Florida**

Agenda



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Cooperation between the United States of America and the European Union has successfully developed since the 1995 New Transatlantic Agenda in the area of occupational safety and health. In the last few years, three conferences held in Luxembourg (1998), San Francisco (2000), and Lemnos, Greece (2003), have reinforced this cooperation. The Fourth US/EU Joint Conference on Occupational Safety and Health, organized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the U.S. Department of Labor and the European Commission, aims at providing a bilateral tripartite forum for exchanging views and good practices on major issues of common interest relevant to this important area of cooperation on both sides of the Atlantic.

2005 Conference Topics

Topic I: **Global Management of Chemicals** *(Grand Republic A)*

Subtopic A: **Pilot Project Results**

- What lessons can be learned from the pilot project? Were US and EU results similar? Are there opportunities for further cooperation in these areas?

Subtopic B: **GHS Implementation**

- What is the current status of implementation of the GHS in the US and the EU? What issues regarding implementation have been identified? Are there opportunities for collaboration between the US and EU regarding implementation in the workplace?

Subtopic C: **Control Banding**

- Is control banding being used in your country? What has been the experience of small businesses applying control

banding? Are the control banding approaches mandatory or voluntary? What further developments are needed to improve the control banding concept? What can be done to improve the application to mixtures?

Subtopic D: **Accuracy of Safety Data Sheets**

- What approaches are used in your country to ensure the accuracy of the information on safety data sheets? What other ideas could be explored to address this issue?

Subtopic E: **Other Discussion Points**

- What activities are ongoing regarding nanotechnology? Has any action been taken to address occupational safety and health concerns? What plans do you have for future activities?
- What else can we do or should we do to manage the hazards of chemicals?

Topic II:
Advancing Good Practices in Health and Safety at the Corporate Level
(*Fantasia C&D*)

Subtopic A:
Identify the critical strategic, cultural and other elements in creating a corporate good practice environment – Session 1

Subtopic B:
Identify the critical operational elements needed to assure that good practices are effectively identified, implemented and sustained at all levels of the business – Session 2

Subtopic C:
Identify successful ways to promote and advance good practice at the corporate level and the role of government and social partners (such as employees, trade unions and employers) – Session 3

Subtopic D:
Identify methods/models by which corporate entities have adopted or incorporated critical goals (see last 3 focus questions) – Session 3

Focus Questions:

- What are the key organizational and behavioral drivers that are essential to the success of a corporate good practice model?
 - Is a good practice environment more successful if there are effective linkages with corporate sustainability, social responsibility and/or broader worker health and productivity goals and programs?
 - What are the most effective strategies for assuring that the social partners agree, share, and participate actively in developing and delivering the organization's health and safety values, goals and operational elements related to good practices?
 - What are the critical success factors to ensure the effective implementation and operation of corporate good practices in an organization?
 - Are organizational targets and objectives focused specifically on good practice development and implementation helpful?
 - What are some of the best sources of good practice information in the US and the EU and what are some ways that information from these sources could be shared and enhanced?
 - Are there case studies that demonstrate the business value, e.g., improved productivity, reduced costs, lower labor turnover, improved occupational health or improved labor union–management relations that help advance good safety and health practices? Note – EU is keen to provide real-life case studies from European undertakings with contributions from directors, managers and representatives of workers.
- What models/good practices/methods exist that advocate the strict enforcement of strong labor standards, both within the US/EU as well as in the countries from which they source their products?
 - What models/methods/good practices exist that adopt and implement strict, independently-monitored codes of conduct?
 - What models/good practices/methods exist that adopt sustainable production and consumption practices throughout their design, production/sourcing and marketing processes, and report publicly on these practices?
 - What models/methods/good practices exist to support the expansion of the REACH program (e.g., registration, evaluation and authorization of chemicals) and the adoption of an equivalent program in the US?

Topic III:
(Im)migrant Workers' Safety and Health
(*Grand Republic C*)

Subtopic A:
General Overview

- What is the general situation in migration of workers throughout the EU and US, including the trends and expectations?
- What is the legal and political background regarding migration of workers in the EU and US?

Subtopic B:
Overview (statistics, industries, hazards, etc.)

- What is the current system for collecting data on injuries, illnesses and fatalities, and what are the limitations of the system?
- What data collection system/data is necessary to better understand the problem of increased injuries, illnesses and fatalities, among (im)migrant workers?
- Is there a difference in injury/illness/fatality experience among "immigrant" populations? Does immigration status (refugees, migrants, legal status, country/state, "new" vs. "old" immigrants) matter?

Subtopic C:
What roles do government and social partners (such as employees, labor groups and employers) have in addressing this problem through enforcement, new regulations, outreach and education.

- How have these four groups worked together to provide outreach to (im)migrant workers?
- What could government do in enforcement and new regulations to address the hazards (im)migrant workers are exposed to?

**Subtopic D:
What are prevention strategies/best practices/
recommendations/interventions to be utilized
through research, training, and advocacy?**

- What programs and initiatives have government and social partners (such as employees, labor groups and employers) implemented to address the high injury and illness rates among (im)migrant workers and to reduce their exposure to occupational risks?
- How can government and social partners (such as employees, labor groups and employers) improve working together to increase outreach to (im)migrant workers?
- What are some of the obstacles to reaching (im)migrant workers?
- How have government and social partners (such as employees, labor groups and employers) overcome some of the obstacles to reaching (im)migrant workers?
- Are there any innovative or outside-of-the-box ideas to prevent workplace accidents among (im)migrants that should be tested?

**Topic IV:
Contractor Safety
(Grand Republic D)**

**Subtopic A:
Description of the Problem**

- What are the industries where contracting arrangements are a significant aspect of the conduct and organization of work?
- What types of work are typically covered by these contracting arrangements, what are the types of employers, and are there particular groups of workers affected?
- What are the safety and health impacts and issues associated with contracting work for these industries, employers and workers?
- What are the factors/aspects of contracting work that contribute to safety and health problems?

**Subtopic B:
Training and Instruction**

- How do we ensure that the contractors and supervisors of contractors have basic knowledge and skills with regard to the risks present in the workplace?
- How should the effectiveness of health and safety training be assessed?
- Is there a need for mutual recognition of safety and health training programs and what mechanism is needed for that?

**Subtopic C:
Specific Management Systems/
Tools for Contractor Safety**

- What components should successful management systems have?
- How can we determine the effectiveness of management systems/tools for contractor safety?
- How do we ensure that all levels of the contractor chain (subcontracting) are included?

**Subtopic D:
Effect on Health and Safety Indicators**

- What kinds of health and safety indicators are most important to examine? (Which best reflect the effectiveness of a good and/or poor safety and health program?)
- How can we collect data (especially on indicators such as performance) that are comparable across industries?
- How can we measure employee perception of a company health and safety program?

**Special Topic:
Bilateral Cooperation: OSHA – Ireland
VPP Pilot Project
(Fantasia A & B)**

**Subtopic A:
Description of the VPP Pilot Project**

- What is the US Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) and why is Ireland interested in developing VPP in Ireland? What implementation strategies are being employed by the US and Ireland for the VPP Pilot Project? What role have labor and management played in the implementation of the pilot?

**Subtopic B:
VPP Pilot Project Issues**

- What were some major issues/barriers surrounding pilot development? How were issues/barriers resolved? What are some of the US VPP program areas that were modified or tailored to meet the needs of Ireland?

**Subtopic C:
VPP Pilot Project Successes**

- What are the successes of the pilot? How will the pilot successes be shared or communicated? Can VPP Ireland Pilot serve as a model for EU for recognizing workplace safety and health excellence?

NOTE: Thursday, September 15, 12:00 p.m.-4 p.m., VPP Workgroup to conduct a site visit at a healthcare facility.

2005 Conference Program

Wednesday, September 14

8:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m. Pre-Meeting – US/EU Steering Committee, Co-chairs and Scribes (*Grand Republic A*)

8:50 a.m. Opening Plenary Session (*Grand Republic B*)

Welcome Addresses

8:55 a.m. Opening Remarks and Introductions, US (Government) **Steven F. Witt**, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

9:00 a.m.-9:20 a.m. US (Government) **Jonathan L. Snare**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

9:20 a.m.-9:40 a.m. EC (Government) **Bernhard Jansen**, European Commission, Director, Employment and Social Affairs

9:45 a.m.-10:00 a.m. EU (Labor) **Tom Mellish**, Trade Union Congress Health and Safety Policy Officer, Trade Union Congress (TUC)

10:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m. US (Labor) **Margaret Seminario**, Director, Department of Occupational Safety and Health, American Federation of Labor – Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)

10:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m. US (Industry) **Frank White**, Vice President, Organization Resources Counselors (ORC), Worldwide

10:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. EU (Industry) **Kris De Meester**, Adviser, Confederation of Belgian Entreprises

10:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Break (*Grand Republic Lobby*)

Keynote Addresses

11:00 a.m. US (Government) **John Howard**, Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

11:30 a.m. EU (Government) **Malcolm Darvill**, Head of International Policy, Health and Safety Executive, UK

12:00 p.m.-1:15 p.m. Lunch (*Ballroom of America B*)

1:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Concurrent Workgroup Sessions

1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Discussion of Subtopics/Focus Questions for Ireland VPP Pilot Project

4:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Break (*Grand Republic Lobby*)

6:00 p.m. US Delegate Session (*Fantasia C&D*)
EU Delegate Session (*Fantasia E&F*)

Thursday, September 15

8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Pre-Meeting – US/EU Steering Committee, Co-chairs and Scribes (*Grand Republic A*)

8:45 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Day's Overview – US (Government) **Jacquelyn DeMesme-Gray**, OSHA Coordinator for International Affairs; Opening Plenary (*Grand Republic B*)

9:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Concurrent Workgroup Sessions

10:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Break (*Grand Republic Lobby*)

12:00 p.m.-1:15 p.m. Lunch (*Ballroom of America B*)

12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. VPP Workgroup Site Visit at Healthcare Facility

1:30 p.m.-4:45 PM Concurrent Workgroup Sessions

3:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m. Break (*Grand Republic Lobby*)

5:00 p.m. EU Delegate Session
(*Fantasia E&F*)
US Delegate Session
(*Fantasia C&D*)

6:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Conference Shuttle Service pick up
for dinner – Location: Westside
(see sign)

7:30 p.m. US-EU Formal Dinner
(*American Adventure Rotunda at
Epcot Center*) Conference Event
Guides will assist US-EU Delegates

9:00 p.m. *Illuminations at Epcot*
(firework display following dinner)
Conference Shuttle Service departs
immediately after display

9:15 p.m.-9:45 p.m. Conference Shuttle Service to hotel
(Location: Backstage Epcot
American Adventure)
Note: Hotel Shuttle Service to hotel
available until 1:00 a.m. (Epcot closes
at midnight)

Friday, September 16

8:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m. Pre-Meeting – US/EU Steering
Committee, Co-chairs and Scribes
(*Grand Republic A*)

9:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Concurrent Workgroup Sessions

11:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Break (*Grand Republic Lobby*)

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Closing Plenary Session:
Presentation of Topic Reports
(*Grand Republic B*)

11:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m. **Topic I**
Global Management of Chemicals

Chair US: **Jennifer C. Silk**,
Deputy Director of
Standards and
Guidance, OSHA

Co-chair EU: **Reiner Arndt**,
Federal Institute for
Occupational Safety
and Health, Germany

Scribe EU: **Janet Asherson**,
Head of Environmen-
tal Affairs, UK

Scribe US: **T.J. Lentz**, Research
Industrial Hygienist,
NIOSH

11:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. **Topic II**
**Advancing Good Practices in
Health and Safety at Corporate
Level**

Chair EU: **Neal Stone**, Strategic
Manager, UK

Co-chair US: **Frank White**, Vice
President, Organization
Resources Counselors
(ORC) Worldwide

Scribe US: **Michael Taubitz**,
Global Regulatory
Liaison, General
Motors Corporation
(GMC)

12:00 p.m.-12:15 p.m. **Topic III**
**Immigrant Workers' Safety
and Health**

Chair US: **Jackie Nowell**, OSH
Director, United Food
and Commercial
Workers International
Union (UFCW)

Co-chair EU: **Viktor Kempa**,
Resource Officer,
European Trade Union
Institute for Research,
Education and Health
and Safety, ETUI-REHS

Scribe EU: **Daniel Kelly**,
Department of
Enterprise, Trade and
Employment, Ireland

12:15 p.m.-12:30 p.m. **Topic IV**
Contractor Safety

Chair EU: **Kris De Meester**,
Adviser, Confederation
of Belgian Entreprises,
Belgian

Co-chair US: **Naomi G. Swanson**,
Leader, Worker
Organization and
Stress Research
Team, NIOSH

Scribe US: **Matthew Gillen**,
Senior Scientist,
NIOSH

		Closing Remarks
12:30 p.m.-12:45 p.m.	Special Topic Bilateral Cooperation OSHA – Ireland VPP Pilot Project Chair EU: Tom Beegan , CEO, Health and Safety Authority (HSA), Ireland Co-chair US: R. Davis Layne , Executive Director, Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association (VPPPA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Bilateral Cooperation Plenary Report • Signing of Joint Declaration 	1:00 p.m.-1:20 p.m. EU (Government) Bernhard Jansen , European Commission, Director, Employment and Social Affairs US (Industry) Alan C. McMillan , President and CEO, National Safety Council 1:20 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Closing of Conference US (Government) Jonathan L. Snare , Deputy Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration
12:45 p.m.-1:00 p.m.	Questions and Answers	1:30 p.m.-2:15 p.m. US-EU Farewell, All Delegates <i>(Nutcracker 3)</i> * * * 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Luncheon Meeting US-EU Steering Committee <i>(Pacific)</i>