



Conference Preventing work-related cancer



23 – 25 May 2016
Amsterdam

RU
2016

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Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the Netherlands in our famous city of Amsterdam. We are proud to have you here at the conference on “Preventing work-related cancer” organised by the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment as part of our EU Presidency in 2016.



The overarching goal of our presidency in this field is to stimulate the prevention of work-related cancer due to exposure to carcinogenic substances in the EU. In this context we strive for more and better preventive measures in the workplace and for an impulse in setting more limit values in the EU.

Too many people die in the EU as a result of work-related cancer. If we want to reduce the number of victims, joint action is necessary by all stakeholders: politicians, policy makers, scientists, employees, employers and other concerned parties. Fortunately, I have the pleasure of welcoming delegates from all these sectors and from a large number of Member States to this conference. I am delighted that you are here.

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Over the next three days we will exchange knowledge of the scope and severity of the problem posed by carcinogenic substances. I urge you to share your knowledge and engage in discussions about good practices and possible measures. I call on you to acquire as much new knowledge as possible: ask all your questions, derive inspiration from good practices, talk to people, and make new contacts!

I wish all of you and us, the organising ministry a productive and pleasant conference. I sincerely hope that in the end we will be able to say that we jointly took a step forward in preventing work-related cancer partly as a result of this meeting.

And of course, I also hope that you have a wonderful stay, here in Amsterdam, with colleagues from all over the EU.

Marcelis Boereboom,

Acting Secretary General, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment

Programme

Monday 23 May

Past and present: context, scope and urgency of the problem in the EU

Plenary programme, Rijnzaal

12:00 – 12:30 **Transfer from Amsterdam Central Station to venue**

12:30 – 13:30 **Registration and lunch**

13:30 – 13:40 **Welcome**
Chairman of the conference Ruben Maes will welcome you

| 4 | 13:40 – 13:50 **Opening of the conference**
by Marcelis Boereboom, acting Secretary General of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, the Netherlands

13:50 – 14:00 **Impact of occupational cancer on people**
Film

14:00 – 14:45 **What do we have here? An overview of the challenge of preventing occupational cancer in Europe**
Plenary and interactive session
by Kevin Myers, president of the International Association of Labour Inspection, United Kingdom
About the use of carcinogenic substances in Europe and general trends in prevention. Kevin Meyers will provide insights into what kind of problems arise and in which sectors. He will also address differences between countries and the history of the use of carcinogenic substances.

In his presentation, Kevin Myers, will use sli.do, an interactive web application, to answer questions from the audience. You are kindly requested to logon on www.sli.do, the login code will be provided during the session.

- 14:45 – 15:30 **Coffee break**
- 15:30 – 16:15 **The societal impact of cancer: numbers and figures about work-related cancer**
Plenary and interactive session
Rob Jongeneel and Petra Eysink will present their findings on numbers and figures about work-related cancer. They will provide estimates available from global burden of diseases and give insights into mortality rates, incidence and societal costs.
- 16:15 – 16:30 **Speech**
by Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility
- 16:30 – 16:45 **Speech**
by Lodewijk Asscher, Minister of Social Affairs and Employment of the Netherlands | 5 |
- 16:45 – 17:00 **Closing remarks first day**
- 17:00 – 17:30 **Transfer to hotel**
- 18:15 – 19:30 **Boat trip through canals of Amsterdam and transfer to restaurant**
- 19:30 – 22:00 **Dinner**
Restaurant Stork
Gedempt Hamerkanaal 201
1021 KP Amsterdam
- 22:00 – 22:30 **Transfer to hotel**

Tuesday 24 May

Measures to be taken in order to prevent exposure to carcinogens: workshops and discussions

08:30 – 09:00

Transfer from hotel to venue

Please note that while entering the venue you are asked to choose one out of the three parallel sessions held (11:30 – 13:00, more information below):

- *Campaigning against carcinogens*
- *Examples on innovation: asbestos and new knowledge*
- *Example on innovation: early warning system*

11:00 – 18:00

Information market in the Expo room

09:00 – 10:00

Opening discussion

Interactive session in the lounge

Opening discussion in small groups with professionals on occupational cancer.

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10:00 – 10:30

How does it work? Risk perception applied to work-related carcinogens

Plenary session, Rijnzaal

by Job Groeneweg, assistant professor at Leiden University, the Netherlands

About risk perception with respect to carcinogens at work. Work-related carcinogens remain a problem with regard to risk perception since human behaviour is not always rational.

Job Groeneweg will introduce the concepts of risk perception and will elaborate on variables which determine our risk perception.

10:30 – 11:00

The importance of behavioural psychology, social marketing and nudging in tackling work-related cancer

Plenary session, Rijnzaal

by Bert Pol, consultant at Tabula Rasa, the Netherlands.

About strategies from behavioural psychology to change our risk perception on carcinogens. Establish the idea that we always have concluded that risk perception is low on this topic, but why have we never taken the extra mile? Bert Pol will introduce social marketing and nudging and explain how this could be used to change risk perception on carcinogens.

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00

Three parallel interactive sessions

Campaigning against carcinogens

Amstel 1

- Lesley Rushton, researcher at Imperial College London, United Kingdom, will present the very successful Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (IOSH) ‘No Time to Lose’ campaign, launched on November 2014;
- Purificación Morán, researcher at ISTAS-CCOO, Spain, will highlight Spanish campaigns creating awareness on work-related cancer and how to diminish the exposure. Also she will share with us the issues she encountered and the solutions they conceptualized;
- Wim van Veelen policy advisor health and safety at FNV, provides insights into the campaign: A trade Union’s Action Plan, “Zero cancer at the Dutch workplace”.

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After these plenary presentations Jop Groeneweg and Bert Pol, will contribute their knowledge. They will reply to those campaigns from a scientific point of view.

Examples on innovation: asbestos and new knowledge

Amstel 2 + 3

- Heinz Kropiunik, managing director and partner of Aetas Ziviltechniker GmbH, Austria, will present new innovations on asbestos removal. About the biggest asbestos removal project worldwide, Aetas has been managing between 1997 and 2013 at the VIC - Vienna International Centre, the headquarter of organisations such as the UN-office, the UNIDO and the IAEA. He will show how Aetas has managed this without causing any hazards for asbestos removers, while the VIC remained in operation;
- Mirjam Luijten, researcher at the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) will give a presentation on the different risks depending on the time of day exposure to carcinogenic compounds takes place.

Example on innovation: early warning system

Theems

- Nicole Palmen, researcher at the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), the Netherlands, and Lode Godderis, professor at the Centre for Environment and Health of the KU Leuven, Belgium. About an innovative system to signalize carcinogens in an early stage. They will speak about the incidence of occupational cancer, diagnosis and exposure.

13:00 – 14:15

Lunch

14:15 – 15:30

Examples of cooperation between social partners

Plenary and interactive session, Rijnzaal

- Reinhold Rühl, statutory accident insurance for the construction industry, Frankfurt, Germany, will address the German Bitumen Forum;
- Magnus Lindberg and Henrik von Hofsten, researchers at Facket för skogs, Sweden, will present good cooperation in the Forestry;
- Lars Brogaard, academic secretary at 3f Kastrup, Denmark, gives insight in the social dialogue and workgroup to reduce the amount of carcinogen substances at Copenhagen airport;
- Laurent Vogel, researcher at the European Trade Union (ETUI) and Rebekah Smith, advisor at Business Europe, will react on these practices and ask questions.

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15:30 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30

Limit values

Plenary start, Rijnzaal

Plenary presentation of the process of setting limit values by RIVM, the Netherlands, and reflection by Matthieu Lassus, prevention engineer at Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, France, followed by discussion.

Interactive sessions

- **Everything you always wanted to know about setting EU limit values for carcinogens (but were afraid to ask)**

Amstel 2+3

- **The role of limit values at company level**

Malta/Wisla

- **How do EU BOELs benefit workers and employers?**

Sava/Vida/Emajogi

- **How to evaluate the feasibility of EU limit values**

Schelde

- **How can REACH information be used in setting OSH limit values**

Elbe

- **The evaluation of carcinogens and mutagens by SCOEL**

Torne

- **SCOEL and international coordination in research**

Vesta/Alfeios

For more details about the interactive sessions see page 12 and further

17:30

Drinks

18:30 – 19:00

Transfer from venue to hotel

Wednesday 25 May

*The future, what are the expected developments in work-related cancer caused by carcinogens?
And what follow-up steps can be taken?*

Plenary programme, Rijnzaal

09:00 – 09:30 **Transfer from hotel to venue**

09:30 – 09:50 **Opening and welcome**

Recap on previous conference days and short interviews with Sakari Karjalainen, secretary general of the Cancer Society of Finland, about the campaign of European Cancer League, and Didier Jans, director general IMA-Europe AISBL, about Nepsi.

09:50 – 10:30

Carcinogens at work: a look into the future

by Jukka Takala, executive director, WSH Institute, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore

Presentation about trends of carcinogen exposures and occupational cancer, proposed action today for reducing the future burden.

10:30 – 10:50

Future developments in the personalized monitoring, bio-monitoring and the management of exposure to carcinogens

by Paulien Bongers director prevention work and health at the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) Paulien Bongers will address a concept which has brought new opportunities for monitoring and management of carcinogens. The digital revolution and development of small (wearable) sensor technology provides opportunities. In addition, advancements in internal exposure modelling and new technologies lead to better insight in disease aetiology and susceptibility, the identification of new biomarkers and improved risk assessment strategies.

10:50 – 11:35

Coffee break

- 11:35 – 11:55 **The future of the fight against work-related cancer: EU-OSHA 2018/2019**
by Christa Sedlatschek, director of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work
- 11:55 – 12:10 **European Commission on policy and future steps**
by Michel Servoz, director general Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- 12:10 – 12:40 **Future steps in European cooperation: the roadmap
Amsterdam-Vienna**
Plenary session
Introduction by Esther de Kleuver, director Occupational Safety and Health at the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment
- Statements by:
- Esther Lynch, president of the European Trade Union Confederation
 - Kris de Meester, chairman of the Health and Safety working group at Business Europe
 - Gertrud Breindl, head of the department of VII/A6, at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
- 12:40 – 12:50 **Closing remarks**
by Marcelis Boereboom, acting Secretary General of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, The Netherlands
- 12:50 **Lunch**
- 14:00 **Transfer by boat to Amsterdam Central Station**

16:00 – 17:30

Limit values session

Plenary start, Rijnzaal

Plenary presentation of the process of setting limit values by RIVM, the Netherlands, and reflection, by Matthieu Lassus, prevention engineer at Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, France. Followed by discussion.

Interactive sessions

Everything you always wanted to know about setting EU limit values for carcinogens (but were afraid to ask)

Location: Amstel 2+3

Capacity: 100 participants

An in-depth look at the process of setting limit values for carcinogens. After a short introduction by Alick Morris, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions. The aim of the session is to understanding of the complex issues of setting limit values for carcinogens at EU level.

Moderator: Henning Wriedt, representative of the German employees in the Working Party on Chemicals

The role of limit values at company level

Location: Malta/Wisla

Capacity: 48 participants

Limit values form a tangible instrument that allows companies to assess and manage the risk of exposure to carcinogens at work. Limit values increase the awareness of employers and workers. They are instrumental in prioritizing, specifying the exposure and for evaluating effectiveness of prevention measures. Finally, limit values are seen as clear-cut references that allow for straightforward enforcement. Together with Jan Twisk (Dow) and Tony Mussu (ETUI) we look at real-life examples of how limit values really work at company level.

Moderator: Diana Martens, Dutch Inspectorate of Occupational health, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment

What use are EU limit binding OELS for the worker and the employer

Location: Sava/Vida/Emajogi

Capacity: 48 participants

The setting of EU limit values for carcinogens allow for an understanding of the underlying risks and make it possible for employers to identify effective control measures. What is the importance of limit values from a workers and employers perspective. Dirk van Well *the Association of the Dutch Chemical Industry (VNCI)*, will explain why limit values are important from the point of view of employees.

Moderator: Jos de Lange, Dutch Focal Point European Agency of Safety and Health at Work

How to evaluate the feasibility of EU limit values

Location: Schelde

Capacity: 30 participants

The setting of EU limit values for carcinogens is based on considerations concerning their socioeconomic feasibility in relation to their health and environmental impact (referred to as “impact assessment”). In terms of necessary data and the applied methodology this may be a challenging process. Different Member States address the feasibility issues in their national processes. Examples of national approaches will be presented by Robin Foster Health and Safety Executive (HSE), United Kingdom and Brigitte Hendriks, the Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands (SER). In the discussion we reflect on the appropriate level of complexity these issues address.

Moderator: Mario van Mierlo, The Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers

How can REACH information be used in setting OSH limit values

Location: Elbe

Capacity: 30 participants

REACH is the EU Regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals. REACH results in more data being available to inform decision-making about worker protection – including carcinogens. REACH data can inform, priorities and can be used in scientific and policy evaluation under OSH. At the same time, the REACH approach to risk characterization is comparable but systematically different to OSH approaches – this needs to be accounted for when REACH data is used to inform OSH decisions. Martijn Beekman, (Bureau REACH, the Dutch executing authority for REACH& CLP), will give an introduction to the subject together with Steven van de Broeck European Chemical Industry Council (SEFIC).

Moderator: Tim Harris, DG Employment

The evaluation of carcinogens and mutagens by SCOEL

Location: Torne

Capacity: 24 participants

In its current work SCOEL makes a distinction in threshold and non-threshold carcinogens. For threshold carcinogens SCOEL derives a recommendation for a health-based limit value. For non-threshold carcinogens - for which a threshold does not exist or cannot be sufficiently supported by current knowledge - SCOEL applies a quantitative risk assessment and reports on the risk associated with different exposure concentrations. SCOEL's Scientific Secretary Dr. Klein will kick off the discussion with an introduction to the methodology used by SCOEL. The session aims at clarifying the scientific issues related to the LV derivation.

Moderator: Peter Bos, National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)

SCOEL and international coordination in research

Location: Vesta/Alfeios

Capacity: 30 participants

The scientific work of SCOEL is a complex and therefore very resourceful activity which requires the gathering and analysis of very many data. The aim of this session is to investigate how systematic cooperation between Member States and other European actors can facilitate the process. Laurent Vogel (European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)) and Elke Schneider (European Agency of Safety and Health at Work) will open the discussion by giving their reflections on this issue.

Moderator: Krzysztof Maruszewski



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