

## Roadmap on Carcinogens 3.0 launched during Belgian presidency conference

On 12 and 13 June, the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union organised the Roadmap on Carcinogens closing event. With this event, the Roadmap partners formally closed the second phase of the Roadmap and launched Roadmap on Carcinogens 3.0.

Participants were presented a state-of-play on workers' exposure to carcinogens and looked back on what was realised during the second edition of the Roadmap. They also discussed what still remains to be done, especially in regards to the way in which the Roadmap's achievements can be further consolidated and implemented into practice. Additionally, the Belgian Presidency presented its own priorities regarding the prevention of carcinogens at work.

Geert De Poorter, chairman of the management committee of FPS Employment, talked, among other things, about the importance of data:

*"Up-to-date data are needed, not only toxicological data but also reliable data on exposure, to assess the efficiency of the adapted measures at the individual workplace level, but also to develop and evaluate legislation."*

With this conference, the Belgian Presidency highlighted the importance of the fight against occupational cancer and reaffirmed its own commitment to the Roadmap on Carcinogens. The prevention of occupational cancer remains a priority that needs to be tackled by a joint effort of governments, social partners, experts, employers and workers.

### Continuing commitment throughout Europe

By signing the covenant, 9 EU Member States as well as BusinessEurope, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) and the European Commission renewed their commitment to this voluntary EU action scheme aiming to protect workers from exposure to carcinogens in the workplace.

Additionally, the Roadmap was able to welcome two new partners as Ireland and the National Institute of Occupational Health in Norway (Stami) have decided to join the initiative.

### Roadmap on Carcinogens 3.0

As the second version of the Roadmap ended with its closing event in Brussels, Roadmap on Carcinogens 3.0 was launched. This new phase of the Roadmap will focus on the distribution of information and tools directly to where they are needed for implementation: the shop floor itself. A new website will provide concrete answers to questions from employers, employees and OSH-experts related to working with carcinogenic agents.

Stefan Olsson, Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's DG Employment, stressed the importance of the Roadmap going forward:

*"Without the Roadmap and all the work, a lot of these directives could have stood there as big symbols, but the Roadmap makes it work for workers' health."*

## The Roadmap on Carcinogens: Towards safer workplaces

The Roadmap on Carcinogens is a voluntary EU action scheme with the aim of protecting workers from exposure to carcinogens in the workplace through awareness raising and by exchanging knowledge and good practices.

In the European Union, about 120.000 people are diagnosed with cancer resulting from carcinogenic agents at work and more than 100.000 die because of work-related cancer every year. Therefore, initiatives protecting our workers from exposure to carcinogenic agents are indispensable.

The Roadmap on Carcinogens started in 2016 at the Amsterdam Conference on preventing work related cancer, when six European organisations joined together for a new initiative: a voluntary four-year action scheme aimed to raise awareness on the risks related to workers' exposure to carcinogens.

When the first version of the action scheme ended in Berlin in 2020, it was decided that while the Roadmap had made good progress, a second edition would be needed. Thus, Roadmap on Carcinogens 2.0 was launched with the goal of increasing the action scheme's impact by executing 12 challenges, resulting in new tools, additional guidance, and more information relevant to both businesses and workers.

With the launch of Roadmap on Carcinogens 3.0 in Brussels, the action scheme is set for another four years.

For more information: <http://www.roadmaponcarcinogens.eu>

