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Public consultation on EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The aim of this open public consultation is to take stock of the quality and implementation of the Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 and to receive input for the future Strategic Framework 2021-2027.

For further information, we kindly refer you to the current Strategic Framework, which can be accessed in your own language here. (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/? uri=CELEX:52014DC0332)

This open public consultation will be available for 12 weeks from 7 December to 1 March 2021.

About you

*Language of my contribution

English

*I am giving my contribution as

Business association

*First name

Christine

*Surname

LE FORESTIER

*Email (this won't be published)

c.leforestier@fiec.eu

*Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

FIEC - European Construction Industry Federation

*Organisation size

Micro (1 to 9 employees)

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register

(http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do?redir=false&locale=en). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

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*Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

Belgium

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Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

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GENERAL VIEWS ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

The EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 supports the promotion of high standards for occupational safety and health both within the EU and internationally. It aims to address the major health and safety at work challenges facing the EU through the implementation of a range of different actions at national and EU level. For more information, please see the Framework itself, which can be accessed in your own language **here** (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/? uri=CELEX:52014DC0332).

In this section, we are interested to understand your level of engagement with the existing EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 and hear your views on how the situation within your country and/or the EU has changed since 2014.

Are you involved in or do you contribute to the design and/or implementation of occupational safety and health (OSH) policy, legislation and/or other measures? Please select what best applies to you.

Yes, at EU level
Yes at national or sub-national (regional, municipal) level
Yes, I/my organisation are involved in OSH policy and/or legislation implementation in the workplace
Yes, in another capacity
No, not at any level

Please answer the survey from your own perspective – for example based on the situation in your company, your country or, if you deal with occupational safety and health (OSH) issues at EU level, based on the situation in the EU as a whole.

Thinking about the situation in your country / the EU, has workplace safety and health in your opinion become better since 2014?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

Please specify why:

500 character(s) maximum

In general, we observe a decrease in the rate of accidents in the construction sector. However, there are now new challenges arising from the pandemic crisis.

Do you agree or disagree that sufficient action has been taken since 2014 to ensure high level of protection of workers' health and safety by...

	Stro ngly Agr ee	A gr e e	Neither Agree nor Disagre e	D is a gr e	Stro ngly Disa gree	D o n' t k n o w
the European Parliament and the Council						
the European Commission						
national or regional authorities (ministries of employment, national institute for occupational safety and health (OSH), labour inspectorate, etc.)	0	0	•		0	0
employers	0		0	0	0	

employers' organisations at EU level				
employers' organisations at national level				
workers				
workers' organisations (trade unions, etc.) at EU level		0		
workers' organisations (trade unions, etc.) at national level	0		0	0

- *How familiar are you with the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at work 2014-2020?
 - Very familiar (I know it in detail)
 - Somewhat familiar (I know certain aspects)
 - Not familiar (or only to a very limited degree)

In your opinion, how important are the following priorities of the EU OSH Strategic Framework 2014-2020 in relation to the key occupational safety and health (OSH) issues faced in your country / the EU since 2014:

	Very Imp orta nt	I m p or ta nt	Slight ly Impor tant	Not Imp orta nt	Do n't kn ow
Better enforcement of OSH legislation by EU Member States	0		0	0	0
Simplify existing OSH legislation					
Facilitate compliance with OSH legislation, particularly by micro and small enterprises	0			0	
Address health and safety issues, such as the ageing of the workforce, emerging new risks, prevention of work-related and occupational diseases			0	0	0
Further consolidate national OSH strategies, aligning them with the EU OSH Strategic Framework				0	0
Better coordinate EU and international efforts to address OSH and engage with international organisations	0		0	0	0
Improve statistical data collection and develop the information base on work related diseases and health issues		0	0		

VIEWS ON THE EU STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2014-2020

In this section, we are interested to understand your views on progress against the specific challenges and objectives identified in the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020. The Strategic Framework defined 7 strategic objectives and a set of actions to be taken by different actors at EU and national level to help achieve each of these objectives.

The strategic objectives are:

1. Further consolidate national strategies

- 2. Facilitate compliance with OSH legislation, particularly by micro and small enterprises
- 3. Better enforcement of OSH legislation by Member States
- 4. Simplify existing legislation
- 5. Address the ageing of the workforce, emerging new risks, prevention of work-related and occupational diseases
- 6. Improve statistical data collection and develop the information base
- 7. Better coordinate EU and international efforts to address OSH and engage with international organisations

For more information on the challenges and objectives, please see the Framework itself, which can be accessed in your own language **here (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/? uri=CELEX:52014DC0332)**.

Do you agree or disagree that the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 ...

	Stron gly Agree	A gr e e	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Dis agr ee	Strongl y Disagre e	Don' t kno w
focussed on the key challenges and issues in the area of OSH?	0	0	0	0	0	
strategic objectives responded to key challenges and issues in the area of OSH?	0		0	0	0	0
was clear in the way it was structured and formulated?			0		0	
ensured involvement and ownership from stakeholders?			0		0	0

Under its **first strategic objective** the **EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020** (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52014DC0332) called on Member States to review their national occupational safety and health (OSH) strategies in light of the new EU framework. The Commission and EU-OSHA were tasked with establishing a database covering all national OSH strategies, and facilitating the exchange of good practices.

In your opinion and based on your experience, do you agree or disagree that actions taken by Member States ...

	Strongl y Agree	A gr e e	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Dis agr ee	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
made good progress?	0		0			
led to tangible results?	0		0			0
were relevant to the actual priorities in the area of OSH?			0	0	0	0
involved the appropriate stakeholders?			•	0	0	0

Has your country developed a new occupational safety and health strategy or updated its existing one since 2014?
○ Yes
○ No
Don't know
Do you agree or disagree that the occupational safety and health strategy of your country is aligned with the
EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 as regards its priorities / key objectives?
Strongly Agree
○ Agree
Neither Agree nor Disagree
○ Disagree
Strongly Disagree
Don't know

Under its second strategic objective the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52014DC0332) called on Member States to provide support on implementing IT-based tools to facilitate compliance with occupational safety and health legislation. The Commission, in collaboration with EU-OSHA and/or other actors, was tasked with developing guidance, promoting the exchange of good practices, and carrying out awareness raising activities.

Based on your experience, do you agree or disagree that these actions...

	Strongl y Agree	A gr e	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Dis agr ee	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
made good progress?	0		0			
led to tangible results?	0					
were relevant to the actual priorities in the area of OSH?			0	0	0	0
involved the appropriate stakeholders?			0		0	

The Framework's (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52014DC0332) third strategic objective called for better enforcement of occupational safety and health (OSH) legislation by Member States. Key actions included: mapping labour inspectorates' resources and evaluating their capacities to enforce OSH legislation, evaluating the programme of exchange/training of labour inspectors, and assessing the effectiveness of monitoring compliance.

Based on your experience, do you agree or disagree that these actions...

	Strongl y Agree	A gr e e	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Dis agr ee	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
made good progress?						

led to tangible results?					
were relevant to the actual priorities in the area of OSH?		•		0	
involved the appropriate stakeholders?	0	•	0	0	0

Under its **fourth strategic objective** the **EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020** (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52014DC0332) refers to the simplification of legislation at both EU and national level, in order to reduce unnecessary burden, and to encourage the promotion of good practice.

Based on your experience, do you agree or disagree that these actions...

	Strongl y Agree	A gr e e	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Dis agr ee	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
made good progress?	0		0			0
led to tangible results?	0		0			0
were relevant to the actual priorities in the area of OSH?		0	0		0	0
involved the appropriate stakeholders?	0	0	•	0	0	0

Under its **fifth strategic objective**, to address the ageing of the workforce, emerging new risks, and work-related and occupational diseases, the **EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52014DC0332)** called for support in the dissemination of findings from the European Risk Observatory, and good practices to support older and other specific groups of workers, as well as mental health issues at work, were to be identified and promoted.

Based on your experience, do you agree or disagree that these actions...

	Strongl y Agree	A gr e e	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Dis agr ee	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
made good progress?			0			
led to tangible results?	0					
were relevant to the actual priorities in the area of OSH?			•	0	0	0
involved the appropriate stakeholders?			•		0	0

Under its sixth strategic objective the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52014DC0332) outlined the need to improve available data and information, inter alia by assessing and improving the availability and comparability of data on accidents at work, and on occupational diseases at EU level.

Based on your experience, do you agree or disagree that these actions...

	Strongl y Agree	A gr e	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Dis agr ee	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
made good progress?						
led to tangible results?	0		0			
were relevant to the actual priorities in the area of OSH?			0	0	0	0
involved the appropriate stakeholders?		0	•	0	0	0

Under its seventh strategic objective, the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52014DC0332)identified several actions to better coordinate EU and international efforts to promote occupational safety and health (OSH) in the world and to strengthen support to candidate countries and international cooperation.

Based on your experience, do you agree or disagree that these actions...

	Strongl y Agree	A gr e e	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Dis agr ee	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
made good progress?	0					
led to tangible results?	0					
were relevant to the actual priorities in the area of OSH?			•	0		0
involved the appropriate stakeholders?			•			

Do you agree or disagree that the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 contributed to better work place health and safety for specific groups of workers who may be identified as potentially facing specific risk factors, such as women, older workers, workers with disabilities, seasonal workers, migrant workers, etc. as well as the self-employed?

_
Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither Agree nor Disagree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree
Don't know

Please provide further details regarding the specific group potentially at risk and/or risks faced. 500 character(s) maximum

(very) small construction companies are a potential target group

In your opinion, were the following stakeholders involved in **the design** of the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 and its actions?

	To o mu ch	About the right amount	To o litt le	No t at all	Don 't kno w
National or regional public authorities (ministries of employment, national institute for OSH, labour inspectorates, etc.)	0	•	0	0	0
Employers' organisations (employers' associations, trade associations, etc.)	0				
Workers' organisations (trade unions, etc.)	0			0	
Employers (incl. self-employed)	0	0		0	0
Academic / research institutions		0	0	0	0
OSH professionals (private experts / consultants, external prevention service providers, OSH network members, etc.)	0		0	0	0
Public insurance organisations	0		0	0	
Other civil society organisations/NGOs	0	0	0	0	
Other	0	0	0	0	0

In your opinion, did the following stakeholders contribute to **the implementation** of the EU OSH Strategic Framework 2014-2020 and its actions?

	To o mu ch	About the right amount	To o litt le	No t at all	Don 't kno w
National or regional public authorities (ministries of employment, national institute for OSH, labour inspectorates, etc.)		•	0	0	0
Employers' organisations (employers' associations, trade associations, etc.)	0				
Workers' organisations (trade unions, etc.)	0		0	0	
Employers (incl. self-employed)	0		0	0	
Academic / research institutions	0	•	0	0	
OSH professionals (private experts / consultants, external prevention service providers, OSH network members, etc.)	0		0		0

Public insurance organisations	0			
Other civil society organisations/NGOs				
Other		0	0	0

In your opinion, what were the most significant barriers to fulfilling the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 objectives? Please select up to three answers. If you don't perceive any barrier, you can skip the question.

at most 4 choice(s)
Lack of commitment, engagement or coordination of / among EU Member States
☑ Limited human and financial resources
Lack of awareness/understanding of OSH among key stakeholders
External factors, such as the COVID-19 pandemic
Lack of commitment or engagement of social partners
National OSH strategies not aligned to EU strategic objectives and actions
Lack of interest/uptake by workers
Lack of interest/uptake by employers
Lack of technical capacity among stakeholders to engage with OSH priorities
✓ Economic context
■ EU strategic objectives and actions not being relevant enough / not aligning to OSH priorities
Lack of commitment or engagement of the EU institutions
EU strategic objectives and actions not leading to concrete results / having limited impact
Lack of monitoring, benchmarks and targets
Lack of coordination between different European Commission services and/or other EU institutions
Other

OVERALL OPINIONS AND VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OSH STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

In this section, we are keen to understand your views on what should be included in a new EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work. This includes questions around key challenges and objectives that should be addressed, the type of actions which should be included and what the main priorities of such a policy initiative should be.

In your view, did the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 contribute to improved health and safety at work at...

	To a great extent	Somew hat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know
EU level?					
national level?				0	
regional level?					
the workplace (for example in your organisation)?	0		0	0	0

Please briefly explain why you believe the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 contributed – or not – to improved health and safety at work.

500 character(s) maximum

It contributed to improve health and safety in terms of good practices, greater focus on emerging risks, and better SMEs' capacity in implementing preventive measures - although more guidance and support to implement legislation and simplifying on the ground, particularly for SMEs, would have led to even more improvements in OSH.

Also, the current legislative framework is sufficient. The European Commission focused too much on legislation and not enough on national best practices.

Thinking ahead to the next 7 years (2021-2027), how important do you think the following will be in terms of OSH policy and action at EU level to be included in a Strategic Framework?

	Im po rta nt	Slightly Import ant	Not Impo rtant	Don 't kno w
Effective application of OSH legislation				
Development and dissemination of OSH guidance, good practices and other awareness raising activities				
Promoting cooperation and coordination of OSH policies across policy areas, such as health, education, environment, chemicals etc.			0	
Promoting social dialogue		0	0	
Updating and adapting OSH related legislation	0		0	0
Supporting enforcement activities		0	0	
International cooperation and coordination of OSH policy	•	0	0	0

In your view, has the Covid-19 pandemic increased or decreased the importance of any of the following OSH-related issues...

	Signifi cantly Increa sed	Slig htly Incr eas ed	Neither Increased not Decrease d	Sligh tly Decr ease d	Signifi cantly Decre ased	D o n't kn o w
infectious disease prevention measures in the workplace, including where risk of infection is higher or in essential services			0		0	
increase of teleworking / remote working / working from home and prevention of related risks			0		0	
work-related psycho-social risks / ergonomic risks prevention	0	•	0	0	0	
access to OSH related information		0	0	0	0	

coordination among Member States in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic at the workplace			0	0	0	0
effective OSH measures for vulnerable groups of workers, such as seasonal, migrant, temporary or self-employed workers	0		0	0	0	0
enforcement issues	0	0		0	0	

Thinking about the future (the next seven years), do you think a new EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work and its priorities should...

be discard	ed –	there is r	no need fo	or an EU-lev	el OSH	Framework

- remain broadly the same
- be updated/adapted
- other
- be fundamentally changed/adapted

Thinking ahead to the next 7 years (2021-2027): What are the key challenges that are common across the EU and require further OSH policy action? Please select up to four answers.

at most 4 choice(s)

✓	OSH risks emerging from ICT/digitalisation (increased digitalisation, AI, workers' surveillance, rig	ght to
	disconnect)	

- OSH risks emerging from robotics/automation/new technologies
- Increased working from home / teleworking
- Risks from dangerous substances (e.g. chemicals / carcinogens)
- Preparedness for future threats to workers' health and safety (e.g. infectious diseases)
- OSH risks emerging from climate and environmental change (such as infectious diseases)
- Promotion of international OSH policy collaboration dimension
- Psychosocial risks (increased work intensity, blurring of work-private life, etc.)

Other

- OSH risks emerging from the rise of platform economy (gig-work, increased precarious and atypical work)
- OSH risks emerging from nanotechnology/nanomaterials
- Ergonomic risks and musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)
- OSH risks to specific socio-demographic groups (women, migrants, etc.)

What practical solutions do you suggest to address all or some of these key challenges?

2,500 character(s) maximum

One must not forget that such risks also represents opportunities in the future! Amongst others, these challenges can be addressed through higher investment in OSH training and OSH programmes, exchange of best practices, accompanying measures towards SMEs, so that can more easily comply with the legislation and the new trends, etc. In any case, national social partners should be closely involved in the implementation of practical solutions.

How important do you think it is that a new EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work covering the next seven years contributes to...

	Very Importa nt	Impo rtant	Slightly Important	Not Importa nt	Don't know
promoting higher occupational safety and health standards in the world					
anticipating and managing change for better and longer working lives					
ensuring evidence-based policy				0	
improving OSH strategies at national level?	0		0	0	0
preventing work-related diseases and accidents		0			0
improving the application of EU rules	0			0	0

Should a new EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work define in detail a list of objectives, actions, timelines and actors involved in the implementation of such actions, or should it set a vision for the future, and a definition of goals and priorities?

- Define in detail a list of objectives, actions, timelines and actors involved in the implementation of such actions
- Set a vision for the future, and a definition of goals and priorities
- Don't know

In your view, what main issues should be included in the successor to the current EU OSH Strategic Framework, covering the next seven years?

2,500 character(s) maximum

- Coordinated actions between the EU and Member States is necessary to safeguard work and mobility, also under pandemic conditions
- Awareness raising campaigns and enhancing of knowledge is essential for employers and workers, especially towards the numerous construction SMEs. Voluntary preventive measures are crucial, while compulsory actions risk to remain unfulfilled, in particular because resources are scarce (e.g. the number of public occupational physicians is expected to decrease in the coming years).
- Such awareness raising campaigns and incentive measures are also important to further improve the culture of OSH within the construction sector: employers also depend on the workers' cooperation.
- The European Commission should not focus too much on legislative initiatives, but rather on the exchange of good national practices. This is in particular important as Member States tend to over-transpose EU legislations on OSH, which can have a counterproductive effect on the activity.
- All initiatives should be adapted to SMEs (simpler, more accessible, more affordable, less bureaucratic, etc.)
- The European Commission should further work on improving the comparability of available national data / statistics. This namely requires an harmonisation of definitions (i.e. concept of accidents at work).
- As regards legislations, the European Commission should focus on the effective implementation and application of the existing legislative framework and limit the production of new binding rules.

You may share any additional remarks or statement(s) regarding the topic of this public consultation here.

EUSurvey - Survey

NB: Remember	to remove any	y personal informa	tion from these	documents i	n case you	have o	pted for
publication of yo	our contributior	ns in an anonymise	ed way.				

500 character(s) maximum

Contact

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