



***HOSPEEM and EPSU Framework Agreement on Prevention
from Sharp Injuries in the Hospital and Healthcare Sector***

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Agreement on Prevention from Sharps Injuries: **Background**



- European Parliament debate and Resolution;
- 2006-2007 **1st stage Consultation** social partners;
- Replies express divergent views – but willingness to jointly explore;
- 7th February 2008 **Technical Seminar**: Presentation of case-studies, insight in complexities of problem;
- 2007-2008 **2nd stage Consultation**;
- HOSPEEM asks EPSU whether they are willing to negotiate;
- Despite internal differences, EPSU agrees to negotiate an agreement on sharps.



...Towards the Agreement



- Secretary Generals of HOSPEEM and EPSU meet **Commissioner Špidla** from DG Employment on **19th January 2009**;
- **European Commission agrees to drop their proposal** to issue a directive on needlesticks;
- Commissioner Špidla agrees to allow the social partners to negotiate an agreement on sharps, with a **9 month deadline** to conclude negotiations;



Appearance before the European Parliament



- **HOSPEEM, CEEP** and **EPSU** were invited by the **European Parliament** to appear before them to answer questions on why the social partners wished to negotiate on a subject they had been working on for a number of years.
- The European Parliament expresses displeasure at Social Partners initiative and involvement.



Agreement on Prevention from Sharps Injuries



- Negotiations start on **26th January 2009** and last **less than 5 months**: Agreement reached on 2nd June 2009;
- **17th July 2009**: Official signing of the sharps agreement by the social partners, **the first of its kind in Health Sector Social Dialogue**;
- **25 January 2010** HOSPEEM and EPSU invited by the **Council of Ministers** to participate in the **Social Question Working Party**.

This was a **historical occasion**, because the European Social Partners are not usually invited to participate to Council's meetings.



Appearance before the Council of Ministers



- HOSPEEM represented by Mr Godfrey Perera and EPSU represented by Ms Carola Fischbach-Pyttel and Mr Robert Baughan were invited to **facilitate the role of the Social Question Working Party** with the analysis of the text of the agreement (25 January 2010); they elaborated a joint clarification for Member States (4 February 2010)
- The technical key point of discussion were:
 - The **scope** of the Directive: who was covered by the principles stated in the document?
 - The question of **recapping**
 - The use of **safe needlesticks**



...Towards the Directive



- Commission announces that the agreement will be transposed into a Directive;
- **10th May 2010**: The Council adopts the **Directive 2010/32/EU**;
- **1st June 2010**: Publication of the Directive in the **EU Official Journal**.

The **Member States** have **three years** to implement the requirements set out by the directive.





Council Directive

Implementing the Framework Agreement concluded by HOSPEEM and EPSU:

- ✓ Makes the Agreement **legally binding** across the European Union
- ✓ Lays down the rules on **penalties** applicable to **infringements**
- ✓ **Enter into force:** three years after adoption
- ✓ **Deadline for implementation: 11th May 2013**



The Framework Agreement signed by HOSPEEM and EPSU



aims to:

- ✓ Achieve the **safest possible working environment** for employees in the sector
- ✓ **Prevent workers' injuries** caused by all medical sharps
- ✓ **Protect workers at risk**
- ✓ Set up an **integrated approach** establishing policies in **risks assessment, risk prevention, training, information, awareness raising and monitoring.**



Content of the Framework Agreement (1):



- ✓ Purpose
- ✓ Scope
- ✓ Definitions
- ✓ Principles
- ✓ Risk Assessment
- ✓ Elimination, Prevention and Protection



Content of the Framework Agreement (2):



- ✓ Information and Awareness-Raising
- ✓ Training
- ✓ Reporting
- ✓ Response and Follow-up
- ✓ Implementation



What has been done so far by the European Social Partners:



- **Discussion** in the HOSPEEM General Assembly and EPSU Standing Committee « Health and Social Services » **promotion** amongst our members and their national bodies.
- Issue of discussion for the **Hospital Sector Social Dialogue Committee** to **monitor the implementation** in Member States
- Participation to **international fora**, as the meeting organised by WHO in Geneva in July 2010 and Bonn in December 2010
- Meeting with OSHA in May 2011 in Bilbao
- HOSPEEM and EPSU Project on Social Dialogue in the Baltic States: one of the main issue of discussion was the implementation of Directive **2010/32/EU**



HOSPEEM-EPSU project proposal to DG EMPL



**"Promotion and support of the
implementation of Directive 2010/32/EU
on the prevention of sharps injuries in
the hospital and healthcare sector"**

- Submitted in April 2012



Why this project?



- Framework Agreement: **possibility to review its application** 5 years later if requested by one of the parties to the agreement.
- **Clause 11 on the implementation** of Directive 2010/32/EU: the interpretation of the framework agreement could be referred by the Commission to the signatory parties for them to give their opinion => sectoral social partners would need to know about the reality on the ground.
- **Formal obligation** by the European and national sectoral partners to engage and stay involved in appropriate follow-up activities (awareness-raising, monitoring and assessing implementation, participation in relevant committees and bodies responsible for the transposition)
- **Interest of sectoral social partners** to raise awareness, provide guidance to affiliates and to promote implementation of/compliance Directive 2010/32/EU



Activities



- The project, if retained after evaluation (to be known in July 2012) by DG EMPL, will run from the 01.10.2012 to the 30.09.2013
- It will comprise three main steps:
 - Preparation, including Steering Group Meeting, Stakeholder Meeting (as already done in October 2011) and elaboration of survey
 - Events
 - Follow-up



Timeline



1. October 2012: Kick-off meeting of Steering Committee
2. October/November 2012: Meeting with relevant external stakeholders.
3. November 2012: Launch of a survey to EPSU and HOSPEEM members.
4. January – March 2013: Three regional seminars in Ireland, Austria and Italy.
5. June 2013: Final conference in Spain.
6. Follow-up meeting of the Steering Committee to discuss project results and possible further steps.
7. Project deliverables (cf. next slide)
8. Final report to the European Commission



Deliverables



- Reports on regional seminars and on final conference (at least in EN, FR, DE)
- Report on survey with HOSPEEM members and EPSU affiliates on progress and difficulties related to the implementation of Directive 2010/32/EU and the role of social partners have played in the process
- Dedicated website with documents (in particular guidance to those working on the ground) and links (to relevant pages and documents of other stakeholders)





Thank you for your attention!

<http://hospeem.org>

<http://www.epsu.org>

