



# ***Agreement on Prevention from Sharp Injuries in the Hospital and healthcare Sector***

***European Biosafety Network***

***1<sup>st</sup> June 2011***

***Godfrey Perera, Secretary General of HOSPEEM***

# **Agreement on Prevention from Sharps Injuries**

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

# Agreement on Prevention from Sharps Injuries



- Secretary Generals of HOSPEEM and EPSU meet Commissioner Špidla from DG Employment on 19<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

# Agreement on Prevention from Sharps Injuries



- Negotiations start on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and last less than 5 months: Agreement reached on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009;
- 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009: Official signing of the sharps agreement by the social partners, the first of its kind in Health Sector Social Dialogue;
- Commission announces that the agreement will be transposed into a Directive;
- 10 May 2010: The Council adopts the directive 2010/32/EU;
- 1 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.

# Appearance before the Council of Ministers



On 25 January 2010 HOSPEEM and EPSU were 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.

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 working group with the analysis of the text of the agreement

The key point of discussion were:

- The scope of the Directive, who was covered by the principles stated in the document?
- The question of recapping and the use of safe needlesticks

**Thank you for your attention!**