



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INCLUSION

The Director-General

Brussels
EMPL.B.3/SO/SC

Dear Mr Goudriaan and Ms Branca,

Thank you for your letter sharing the concerns of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for the Hospitals and Healthcare sector (SSDC HS) regarding the monitoring of the implementation of the Directive 2010/32/EU¹.

The Commission is fully committed to overseeing the implementation of the EU legislation by Member States. As you are aware, Directive 2010/32/EU is reproducing an autonomous agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector signed by the European social partners HOSPEEM and EPSU. Member States were required to adopt binding national measures implementing the Directive by 11 May 2013.

After that date, the Commission was actively involved in the relevant follow-up necessary to ensure that the Directive was entirely and correctly transposed into national law, and where necessary my services have even entered in dialogue with the Member States concerned. The Commission launched procedures for failure to communicate national transposing measures against a number of Member States. Since then, all Member States have put in place binding rules transposing the provisions of the Directive.

It is now first and foremost the responsibility of each Member State, in particular the national enforcement authorities, to ensure that those rules are correctly implemented and complied with. The Commission continues to follow up on any queries or complaints from citizens and businesses.

Given the fact that there are national rules in place transposing the Directive, it is particularly important to raise awareness about those rules and to promote the main principles on which the Directive and the social partners agreement contained therein are built.


I am happy to learn that SSDC HS has ongoing talks with EU-OSHA on updating the thematic webpage on medical sharps and has presented a follow-up report at the Enforcement Working Group of the Senior Labour Inspectorate Committee on 19 February 2020.

¹ Council Directive 2010/32/EU of 10 May 2010 implementing the Framework Agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector concluded by HOSPEEM and EPSU, OJ L 134, 1.6.2010, p. 66

The promotion and dissemination aspect at national level are major tasks on which Member States should be assisted, whenever appropriate, jointly by social partners and the Commission.

Thank you for your work in this field and let us continue our good cooperation in awareness raising in order to ensure safe working environment while working with sharps.

Yours sincerely,



Joost KORTE