



EU update

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Agenda

Asbestos directive revision & hearing

CMRD5 and CMRD6

Oral question

EP Resolution

Climate: rescEU – commissioner – press

Asbestos/1

2021: EP Report

2022: proposal by Eu Commission

2023: proposal amended by EU Parliament – includes hearing

ONGOING: negotiations (possibly over during summer)

Asbestos/2

-lowering OEL (occupation exposure level) : old limit 100.000f/m³, new proposal from EC 10.000f/m³, EP 1.000f/m³

3 specific requests for firefighters

1. Recognition of FF as group at risk
2. Mandatory decontamination procedures with sectoral SP
3. National asbestos registries (LRG SD statement)

CMRD5

Carcinogens, mutagens and reprotoxins directive – 5th batch

Substances: lead and diisocyanates

Process: EC proposes, EP amends, Council (countries) amends on its side. EP + council + commission: negotiate.

CMRD5 /2

EP version includes FF (Rapporteur LEFT + S&D + Greens + EPP)

Recital: (15c) The World Health Organization classified the occupational exposure of firefighter as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1). Occupational exposure as a firefighter includes a variety of hazard resulting from fires and non-fire events. Firefighters can be exposed to combustion products from fires, building materials, chemicals in firefighting foams, flameretardants and diesel exhaust. The uptake of fire effluents or other chemicals can occur via inhalation and dermal absorption and possibly via ingestion.

CMRD5/2 bis

Rapporteur + Greens:

(8) in Article 18a, the following paragraph is added: “By ... [twelve months after the date of entry into force of this amending Directive], the Commission shall, after consulting the ACSH, develop a definition of ‘carcinogenic occupations’. A non-exhaustive list of such occupations shall be annexed to this Directive.”

CMRD6

New round of CMRD will be launched in second half of 2023. Social partners and advisory committee on OSH are consulted.

EPSU proposed occupational exposure as a firefighter to be added as such to the directive.

ETUC has included this demand in its official position.

Oral question and EP resolution

1. Following resolution, EMPL committee will ask a number of questions to EC (September plenary). Text under negotiation.

Last version (next slide) + interest on proposing an EP resolution on working conditions of firefighters. Pro (great!), cons (volunteers discussion probably unavoidable)

Oral question

Fire services play an indispensable role throughout the European Union, particularly in the light of climate change, causing increasingly frequent and larger fires, floods, draughts. Firefighters operate under extremely difficult environmental conditions and are exposed on a daily basis to highly carcinogenic combustible and chemical substances. The exposure to such substances can have a serious short and long-term impact on the health and well-being of firefighters, as well as on their families and the citizens. The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs would like to ask the Commission:

1. How does the Commission, jointly with Member States and social partners, intend to promote a better protection of this category of workers?
2. Which actions can the Commission, together with Member States, take to draw up legislative and non-legislative proposals to protect the health and safety of firefighters?
3. Is the Commission considering more investments, including in research and the set-up of minimum standards for personal protective equipment, including sufficient supply, and operating procedures, including decontamination ones?
4. Would the Commission consider the establishment of a European register to collect data on occupational diseases developed by category?
5. What does the EC intend to do regarding the WHO classification of professional exposure as a firefighters as cancerogenic?

Climate

EC announceThe rescEU aircraft reserve includes 24 airplanes and 4 helicopters from 10 Member States

In addition, Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia will be sending almost 450 firefighters to be prepositioned in France, Greece and Portugal.

Letter and request for a meeting with Commissioner responsible with EPSU & delegation of FF network. Press actions (Pablo). Statement.