

28 April 2015
International Workers'
Memorial Day

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- 150,000 have died while EC evaluates 'better regulation'
- 100,000 people die every year from occupational cancers.
- Wanted: enforceable exposure limits** for the most toxic chemicals for causing cancer and for fertility and pregnancy
- Despite the appalling death rate, the European Commission's draft Health and Safety 'strategy' proposes no legally binding measures!
- The European Commission in October 2013 blocked the revision of the Directive on Carcinogens or Mutagens at work, under the pretext of reviewing 'red tape', with the result that only 3 cancer causing chemicals have European exposure limits.

On Workers Memorial Day

European Trade unionists

- Commemorate the 100,000 colleagues and friends, fathers, mothers, daughters and sons are killed every year in the EU by cancers – caused at work – which are entirely preventable.
- Condemn the European Commission for delaying since October 2013 the adoption of legally binding exposure limits for chemicals that cause cancer, or are toxic for male and female fertility and the unborn child, because it is conducting a review of 'red tape'. It means that 150,000 have died while EC evaluates 'better regulation'.
- Do not believe that the European Commission so lacks humanity that measures to protect people from cancer, people from fertility difficulties, or babies in the womb from toxic chemicals, could be considered a cost to business which needs to be reduced to improve competitiveness; that human life could be just another line in the balance sheet alongside the cost of raw materials, transport and energy.
- Demand legally enforceable exposure limits** for a priority list of 50 of the most harmful chemicals as a first step.
- Call on the European Commission to unblock the revision of the Directive on Carcinogens or Mutagens at work and include substances that are toxic for reproduction.

*Legislation on limit values has been delayed 1.5 years since Oct 2013 with adoption of REFIT Com (2013) 685

** Occupational exposure limit values

We demand legally enforceable exposure limits** for a priority list of 50 of the most harmful chemicals for causing cancer and for fertility and pregnancy



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