



To: Members of EP Employment committee

14 September 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Employers across the EU are committed to protecting workers' health and safety at the workplace. We also see that good safety and health performance can help business competitiveness as long as the benefits outweigh the costs and administrative burdens of health and safety measures.

On 23 September, the Employment Committee is due to vote on a draft own-initiative report on the EU Strategic Framework for Health and Safety at Work.

BUSINESSEUROPE welcomes the focus of the EU Strategic Framework on better implementation, compliance and simplification of existing EU and national legislation. This approach rightly recognises that there is already a comprehensive body of EU occupational safety and health (OSH) legislation (24 directives) and that the best way to ensure workers are protected from health and safety risks at the workplace is to make sure the existing legislation is applied in practice. This approach is also important in establishing a level-playing field of OSH requirements across the EU.

The draft report rightly signals the importance of the ongoing exercise to evaluate implementation of the EU OSH directives in the Member States. However, it is not appropriate to already foresee further legislative measures or a revision of the strategic framework when the evaluation exercise is not yet complete. In any case, when the scheduled review of the strategic framework takes place in 2016, the approach of the Commission on better implementation, compliance and simplification of existing legislation should be retained. We are therefore concerned that the draft report calls for new EU legislation on musculoskeletal disorders and some amendments call for new EU legislation on psychosocial risks.

We agree that a safe working environment has to be provided for all workers. However, we do not agree with the assumption that certain types of employment or contract necessarily go hand in hand with additional health and safety risks. Effective assessment and management of risks at the workplace is the best way to ensure that all workers are protected.

A number of amendments have been submitted by members of the Employment Committee which would make the report more balanced. We hope you can support these. Please find attached a more detailed explanation of our position on some of the key points in the draft report and recommendations on some of the amendments.

Yours sincerely,



Markus J. Beyrer