

**European Work Hazards Network
presents**

Working Conditions in a Changing Europe

Eighth European Work Hazards Conference

21-23 September 2001

**Chamber of Labour Conference Center
Vienna, Austria**

Special seminar on OHS mechanisms in the European Union 20 Sep 2001



Organised by
the Austrian Work Hazards Network

c/o ppm research+consulting

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Introduction

The 2001 European Work Hazards Conference (EWHC) brings together workers and workers' representatives and health professionals for the 8th time to exchange experience and information, and to discuss issues that affect working people and their health at the start of the new century. Key issues are, first, new technologies and how they combine with new forms of work organization; and, second, political and economic developments in Europe, particularly the forthcoming (economic) integration of Europe. Europe has become a synonym for the European Union, but within the European Work Hazards Network we want to look at Europe in its broader geographic sense.

The EWHC is a unique platform, and particularly an opportunity to bring together workers and unionists active in health and safety issues and professionals in various specialized areas within the work and health spectrum, all of them activists in their fields. The conference forms a bi-annual crystallization point for persons working in the field of workplace health and safety.

The conference is organized by the European Work Hazards Network (EWHN), a permanent network linking workers, workers' representatives, and professionals throughout Europe. National networks exist in most European countries. The EWHN encourages the formation of subnetworks centered around particular issues, industrial sections, or professions, but intends to keep those subnetworks linked up to the other activists. This is reflected in the conference workshops.

In a world of global industrial cooperation, and particularly in a period where Europe in different ways develops new shapes, in a world that seems to speed up incredibly using a daily growing assortment of information and communication technologies, those involved in developing and improving work in human terms (and defending working humans against inhuman developments) need to exchange experience and cooperate on strategies that fit their environment. Workers' experience and professional knowledge need to be exchanged internationally to support the development of new strategies. Apart from the strategy-oriented networking, the conference will look into actual themes of concern, that reflect negative developments in the working conditions and the ways in which many people presently earn their living.

Working conditions in a changing Europe

Special attention will be paid to the situation in the European countries with EU applicant status and other Eastern and Southeastern European countries. Activists from Eastern Europe will be invited to not only participate in the conference; the network will offer a special one-day seminar preceding the conference, where EWHN activists will present insights into EU and national institutions and mechanisms dealing with questions of occupational health and safety. The conference will look into problems that arise on both sides of the present EU borders in terms of exporting unhealthy jobs, working conditions for migrant workers, the development of relevant institutions, as well as union policy. The new economic conditions in Eastern and Southeastern Europe provide new challenges for union activists and professionals working in occupational health and safety, and while economically many links have been established, there is a growing need to exchange information and cooperate in order to prevent the development of permanent different levels of health and safety in working environments. The EWHN provides a platform to establish links between activists and share experience and knowledge.

Preliminary programme

Thursday, 20. Sept 2001	08.00 - 11.00	Arrival and registration of seminar participants
	11.00 – 17.00	Special seminar: Occ. Health & Safety in the EU and on the workings of the European Network
	18.00 – 22.00	Arrival and registration at hotels
Friday, 21. Sept 2001	08.00 – 19.00	Arrival and registration at hotels and at conference site
	09.00 – 12.00	Workplace visits
	02.00 – 14.00	Lunch
	13.00 – 16.00	Workplace visits
	16.30 – 18.00	National network meetings
	18.00 – 19.30	Dinner
Saturday, 22. Sept 2001	20.00 – 21.30	Opening plenary
	09.00 – 12.00	Workshop sessions and information meetings
	12.00 – 13.30	Lunch
	14.00 – 17.00	Workshop sessions and information meetings
Sunday, 23. Sept 2001	18.00 – 19.30	Dinner
	20.00 – open	Social Event
	09.30 – 11.00	Workshop session
	11.00 – 12.00	Plenary session + conclusions
	12.00 – 13.00	Lunch

Conference language: English.

Plenum will be translated into several European languages; whispering translation during workshops and information meetings

Workshops

1. 24 Hour Society - Work without limits (facilitators: Denmark and Germany)
2. WTO Working conditions (Denmark)
3. Role of H&S Representatives in Public and Private sector (Italy)
4. Isocyanates (Denmark and Norway)
5. Psychological Strain (Denmark and Austria)
6. Bullying (Netherlands)
7. Electro magnetic radiation (Netherlands)
8. Partnerships in health & safety (Netherlands)
9. Migrant workers (Netherlands)
10. Corporate crime (Scotland – England - Norway)
11. Regulation, inspection, and enforcement (Finland)
12. Occupational Health Services (Austria)
13. Health promotion in workplaces (Austria)
14. Asbestos (England)
15. Occupational health and safety – a trade union strategy (Netherlands)
16. Health and safety management systems (Austria)

Besides the above mentioned workshops smaller **information meetings** (including information on ongoing projects) to take place around several topics:

- Gender issues in workplace health and safety
- Consequences of enlargement of the European Union für OHS
- The 24 hour society
- New media and its effects on health and safety (and OHS work)
- Electronics
- Laboratory network
- Stress network
- Construction safety
- Homeworkers
- Offshore industry
- Chemicals at work
- Scaffolders
- Transport

Registration and payment

Conference fee: Euro 260.- (Single room) / **Euro 244.-** (Double room); extra night at hotel prior or after conference: Euro 58.- (Single room) , Euro 50.- (Double room).

The fee includes attendance at the conference, workshops, conference map, workplace visits, 2 nights in a double or single room (according to booking preferences), 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches. The conference report will be available 2 months after the conference.

The registration for the conference will be through national networks where applicable. Participants from countries with no national network at present time may register through any other national network, or directly with the conference bureau in Austria. As space is limited, registrations will be accepted on a first in – first served basis. Direct bookings with the Austrian conference bureau will be confirmed only after payment of conference fee. In due time prior to the conference, all participants will receive an information pack giving accommodation and travel details. We expect that most participants travel to Vienna by air or train (sleeper trains available to Vienna from many European cities). Those planning to travel by car should be aware that parking in the central areas of Vienna is expensive, and that neither the conference hotels nor the conference venue can provide free parking. For those intending to arrive early or stay on for some days, accommodation will be available at conference hotels. For those intending to combine the conference with a (family) holiday, we may be able to arrange for accommodation at very reasonable rates at a trade union sports center located in one of the big parks not far from the city center and also open to families. Please contact the Austrian conference bureau directly for further information.

Cancellation: In the event of cancellation before 15 August 2001 the fee paid will be refunded minus a deduction of Euro 30. No refund will be made thereafter. Replacements can be named at no extra charge, please contact your national network.

Delegates will be responsible for their own travel accounts. Transportation will be provided as part of the conference pack between hotels and conference site, as well as to companies providing workplace visit opportunities. Those traveling by car will need to use commercial parking facilities at their own expense.

Information on the City of Vienna, including cultural and sports events and ticketing facilities for many cultural institutions, is available on the internet (<http://www.info.wien.at>) in several languages. In case you need special advice and assistance, please contact the Austrian conference bureau directly – we will certainly try to help make your stay a success from start to finish.

