



Parliamentary Assembly  
Assemblée parlementaire

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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**Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development**

***Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter***

**Parliamentary seminar on  
"Ensuring safe and healthy working conditions"**

**In cooperation with the Department of the European Social Charter and  
the Parliamentary Projects Support Division of the Parliamentary Assembly**

**Monday, 10 November 2014, Paris  
Council of Europe Office, 55 Avenue Kléber,  
Paris 16<sup>ème</sup> (Boissière metro station)  
[Tel: + 33 1 44 05 33 60 / fax: + 33 1 47 27 36 47]**

**Draft programme**

## **1. Objectives**

*The seminar will consider – from the parliamentary perspective – conclusions by the European Committee of Social Rights on the conformity of national legislation and practice with Article 3 (the right to safe and healthy working conditions – see the appendix) of the European Social Charter in respect of selected countries.*

*The participants will share their experience of work on challenges relating to occupational safety in the national context and will discuss problems, possible solutions and examples of good practice in this area. They will be encouraged to reflect on ways of addressing the issues raised in the conclusions by the European Committee of Social Rights and removing obstacles, in the national context, to accepting the provisions of Article 3 and/or its sub-articles.*

*We trust that the seminar will enhance parliamentarians' capacity to make the best use of the Charter and its potential, as well as boosting its impact, in their countries.*

## **2. Participants**

*The participants of this seminar shall be parliamentarians who are members of national parliament's committee dealing with the issues of social rights in general and safe and healthy working conditions in particular.*

*With regard to conclusions by the European Committee of Social Rights on the conformity of national legislation and practice with Article 3, the following countries have been invited: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Slovak Republic, Turkey and Ukraine.*

*Concerning the non-acceptance of the provisions of Article 3 or its sub-articles, the following countries have been invited: Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Norway, Sweden and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".*

*Some countries are concerned by the two issues: Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Romania.*

## **3. Working languages**

*Interpretation will be provided into English and French throughout the seminar. Russian interpretation will be provided upon request.*

## Draft programme

**9:30-10:00** Opening of the seminar by Mr Ioannis DRAGASAKIS, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee

Welcome speech on the right to safe and healthy working conditions as guaranteed by Article 3 of the European Social Charter by a representative of the European Committee of Social Rights (*name to be confirmed*)

**10:00-12:30** Session 1: Strengthening safety and health regulations to reduce hazards at work

Implementation of the provisions of the European Social Charter relating to:

- Policies to ensure adequate levels of occupational safety and the prevention of accidents, injuries and professional diseases, including burnouts (Art. 3.1)
- The need to enhance protection of self-employed, domestic and temporary workers and workers on fixed-term contracts (Art. 3.2)
- Access to occupational health services (Art. 3.4)

"Overview of the jurisprudence of the European Committee of Social Rights" by Ms Eliane CHEMLA, member of the European Committee of Social Rights

*Contributions by national delegations*

"Problems and opportunities for the parliamentary action" by Mr Roel DESEYN, PACE Rapporteur on "Decent work for all"

"How to protect undeclared workers in the informal economy?" by a representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO; *name to be confirmed*)

*Exchange of views*

**12:30-14:30** Working lunch (Brasserie Italienne, 73 avenue Kléber, Paris)

**14:30-16:45** Session 2: Securing adequate working environment for all workers in all sectors of the economy

Implementation of the provisions of the European Social Charter relating to:

- Efficient reporting and monitoring of occupational accidents and diseases (Art. 3.1 and 3.3)
- Measures for controlling effective risk prevention at work through the action of occupational health services and labour inspections (Art. 3.3)
- Promotion of the progressive development in occupational health systems (3.4)

"National implications of the jurisprudence of the European Committee of Social Rights" by Ms Eliane CHEMLA, member of the European Committee of Social Rights

*Contributions by national delegations*

"Responsibilities of employers and occupational health services" by a representative of Business Europe (possibly from the French MEDEF; *name to be confirmed*)

"The point of view of trade unions" by a representative of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC; *name to be confirmed*)

*Exchange of views*

**16:45-17:00** Presentation of conclusions by Mr Ioannis DRAGASAKIS, Chairperson, and the Vice-President of the European Committee of Social Rights (*name to be confirmed*)

## **APPENDIX**

### **Article 3**

#### ***The right to safe and healthy working conditions***

***With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to safe and healthy working conditions, the Parties undertake, in consultation with employers' and workers' organisations:***

- 1. to formulate, implement and periodically review a coherent national policy on occupational safety, occupational health and the working environment. The primary aim of this policy shall be to improve occupational safety and health and to prevent accidents and injury to health arising out of, linked with or occurring in the course of work, particularly by minimising the causes of hazards inherent in the working environment;***
- 2. to issue safety and health regulations;***
- 3. to provide for the enforcement of such regulations by measures of supervision;***
- 4. to promote the progressive development of occupational health services for all workers with essentially preventive and advisory functions.***



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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development  
*Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable*

Strasbourg, 26 September 2014

Dear Chairperson,

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and its Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development closely follow the development of social rights in Europe, with the Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter having special responsibility to monitor, from a parliamentary angle, the implementation of the European Social Charter through legislation and practice.

In order to continue promoting social rights, the Parliamentary Assembly will organise a parliamentary seminar with a focus on "**Ensuring safe and healthy employment conditions**" (in accordance with Article 3 of the European Social Charter). This seminar will be held in Paris on Monday 10 November 2014 in the format of a meeting of the Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter enlarged to representatives of the relevant Committees in national parliaments. Enclosed you will find a draft programme for the seminar for which the working languages will be English and French. Russian interpretation will be provided upon request.

We hope that yourself as the Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson or another member of your Committee could participate in this event. The main objective of the seminar is to look at where and how legislation and practice in the field of occupational safety can be improved, through an exchange of good practice between national parliamentarians.

In the light of the above, I would appreciate it if you could communicate the name of your Committee delegate to our Secretariat as soon as possible, and by 10 October at the latest. We will then issue a nominal invitation to him/her, so that travel arrangements can be made in good time (travel costs and subsistence expenses for one member of your Committee will be borne by the Council of Europe in accordance with its rules).

Interested members of your national delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly who are members of the Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter or the Plenary Committee are also welcome to attend (at the cost of their national parliaments).

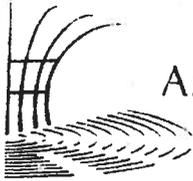
Ms Maren Lambrecht-Feigl (tel. + 33 3 90 21 47 78, [maren.lambrecht@coe.int](mailto:maren.lambrecht@coe.int)) and Ms Aiste Ramanauskaite (tel: +33 3 88 41 31 17, [aiste.ramanauskaite@coe.int](mailto:aiste.ramanauskaite@coe.int)), Committee Secretaries, remain at your disposal for any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Ioannis Dragasakis  
Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter

**Mr José Manuel CANVARRO**  
Chairperson of the Committee on Social Security and Labour  
Assembleia da República  
Palacio de S. Bento  
1249-068 Lisboa cedex

cc: Mr Joao Bosco Mota Amaral, Chairperson of the Portuguese delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly  
Ms Ana Milheiriço, Secretariat of the Portuguese delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly



Parliamentary Assembly  
Assemblée parlementaire

General Services Directorate  
Direction des Services généraux

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 20 October 2014

Dear Ms Neto,

The Parliamentary Assembly has been working over a number of years, to ensure more active involvement of national parliaments in issues relating to the implementation of the rights enshrined in the European Social Charter. It is in this context that the Assembly's Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter (of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development) will hold its second seminar addressed to members of national parliaments on the issue of social rights, focusing on "Ensuring safe and healthy working conditions", in accordance with the draft programme attached.

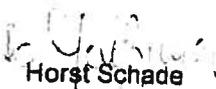
Further to the Sub-Committee's preliminary contacts with your parliament, I have the pleasure in confirming your invitation to participate in this seminar which will be held in Paris on 10 November 2014. The working languages will be English and French (Russian interpretation will be provided upon timely request). I would be grateful if you could confirm your participation by returning to us your registration form at your earliest convenience. Should you not be able to attend personally, I should be grateful if your parliament could appoint another member to this event.

The Parliamentary Assembly will cover your travel and subsistence expenses (175 € per day) in accordance with the Council of Europe rules enclosed herewith and reimbursed by bank transfer after the meeting. I would draw your attention to the fact that these allowances are reduced if certain expenses are met by the organisers. Moreover specific travel related risks are covered by a CHARTIS insurance policy (number 2.004.761), which provides cover for persons up to their 76th birthday. The following help line CHARTIS Assistance 24 Hours can be called in case of need: + (32) 3 253 69 16. It is not necessary to take out a supplementary insurance policy and such a policy will not be reimbursed by the Council of Europe.

I should be grateful if you could inform us whether you are in a position to accept this invitation.

Ms Aiste Ramanauskaite (+33 3 88 41 31 17; [aiste.ramanauskaite@coe.int](mailto:aiste.ramanauskaite@coe.int)) and Ms Maren Lambrecht-Feigl (+ 33 3 90 21 47 78, [maren.lambrecht@coe.int](mailto:maren.lambrecht@coe.int)), Secretaries to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, remain at your disposal for any further information you may require.

Yours sincerely,

  
Horst Schade  
Director

**Ms Andreia NETO**  
Member of the Committee on Social Security and Labour  
Assembleia da República  
1249-068 Lisboa  
Portugal

Encl. *Rules concerning the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses*  
*Claim form for reimbursement*  
*Draft Programme and registration form*

Cc: Ms Susana Fazena, Secretariat of the Committee on Social Security and Labour  
[Comissao\\_10A-CSSTXI1@ar.parlamento.pt](mailto:Comissao_10A-CSSTXI1@ar.parlamento.pt)  
Mr Joao Bosco Mota Amaral, Chairperson of the Portuguese delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly  
Ms Ana Milheiro, Secretariat of the Portuguese delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly