ILO Conference at the A+A in Düsseldorf (20/10/2011)

Impact of the Declaration of Brussels in companies - towards Boston Construction Section Symposium

-

Carl Heyrman

(Managing Director of navb-cnac Constructiv

Vice-President of ISSA-C)

navb·cnac
constructiv

The Declaration of Brussels

THE DECLARATION OF BRUSSELS

25th november 2009

issa INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION

Section on Prevention in the Construction Industry

XXIXTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE ISSA CONSTRUCTION SECTION ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM 23-25 NOVEMBER 2009

WHEREAS the International Social Security Association (ISSA) was established to perfect and develop public social protection based on the solidarity of all citizens through international cooperation;

WHEREAS the ISSA Bureau established the Construction Section to carry out actions to prevent occupational accidents and diseases in the construction industry;

WHEREAS one of the main activities of the Construction Section has been to convene the International Symposium of the ISSA Construction Section on Occupational Safety and Health in the Construction Industry to identify and address important safety and health demands through research, innovation and good practice;

WHEREAS life expectancy has increased significantly in most nations during the last 20 years, whether they are developed or emerging economies, and will most likely continue to do so, thereby placing greater pressure on the Social Security arrangements that have been created;

WHEREAS progress has been made in safety and health, the construction industry is still a high risk sector with respect to accidents and occupational diseases, often resulting in premature death or disability retirement; and

WHEREAS globalization has provided economic opportunities for many parties involved, it has also affected the Social Security arrangements that have been created worldwide and has challenged the progress that has been made in safety and health performance in the construction industry. This is in particular due to the use of workers from low-wage countries as those workers are often employed under the worst working conditions.

Signatories

- Joëlle Milquet
  Deputy Prime Minister
  Minister for Employment

- Dr. Sameera Maziad Al-Tuwaijri
  Director
  International Programme on
  Safety and Health at Work
  and the Environment (ILO)

- Dirk Cordeel
  President of FIEC

- Justin Daerden
  President of navb-cnac Constructiv

- Domenico Pesenti
  President of EFBWW

- Gérard Ropert
  President of
  the ISSA Construction Section

- Klaus Wiesehügel
  President of BWI

- Erich (Pete) Stafford
  Executive Director of CPWR

Findings

- **Significant increase in life expectancy** placing greater pressure on the Social Security systems in place
- Construction industry remaining a **high risk industry** with respect to accidents and occupational diseases, notwithstanding the progress made in safety and health over the past decades
- **Globalisation** providing economic opportunities, but affecting Social Security and challenging the progress already made (mainly due to the use of workers from low-wage countries, as those workers are often employed under very poor working conditions)

Overarching Resolutions

navb·cnac constructiv

- All nations should :
  - Take into account that the construction industry is still a high risk industry: responsible parties must **take action to ensure safe and healthy working conditions for the workers in the industry**. The main **focus**: **risk prevention**, **rehabilitation** and proper **compensation** for injured workers.
  - Recognize the importance of the construction workers' working conditions and implement the necessary measures to improve those conditions so that the workers can **continue until they reach their normal retirement age**, without any harmful effects on their health: **strive to create work tasks that are adapted to the workers' functional capacity.**
  - Reaffirm their commitments to Social Security arrangements and to the prevention of accidents and diseases in the construction industry by **ensuring that construction is conducted according to the highest labor standards**.

Specific Resolutions (1)

navb·cnac constructiv

- In order to address these challenges, the signatories of the Declaration **encourage all interested parties to promote the implementation of the following actions** for the continual improvement of occupational safety and health (OSH) in the construction industry:
  - **1. OSH policies** (conventions, recommendations, codes of practice) **must be kept up to date throughout the world** with leading international levels of best practices, defined within the framework of international cooperation, globally or regionally, such as the ILO.

Specific Resolutions (2)

navb·cnac constructiv

- **2. OSH strategies** to implement the policies **should take into account the peculiarities of the construction industry** and should involve the active participation and **consultation** of the **public authorities** and the **social partners**.

- **3. Social security agencies and preventive bodies play a key role** in **defining** and **promoting safety and health** in the construction industry, including a **general culture** that values safety and health **prevention**, amongst others **by integrating safety and health into information materials and education and training programmes.**

Specific Resolutions (3)

navb·cnac constructiv

- **4.** While **employers bear the main responsibility** for ensuring safety and health at the worksite, **other construction parties**, such as clients/owners, designers, coordinators and workers, **also have to face their responsibilities** in order to achieve a real progress.
  - **Government/public clients should check that the levels of OSH performance requested in tenders** for public financed projects **are actually respected in practice** in order to prevent occupational accidents and diseases.

Specific Resolutions (4)

navb·cnac constructiv

- **5. OSH programmes at company level should be performance-based, include the participation of workers** and their representatives and **address all risks** for workers.

- **6.** Performance-based OSH programmes require:
  - the adoption of **adequate instruments** and a **full and transparent reporting** of findings
  - **the updating** of **OSH policies**, **strategies and programmes** based on these findings

Specific Resolutions (5)

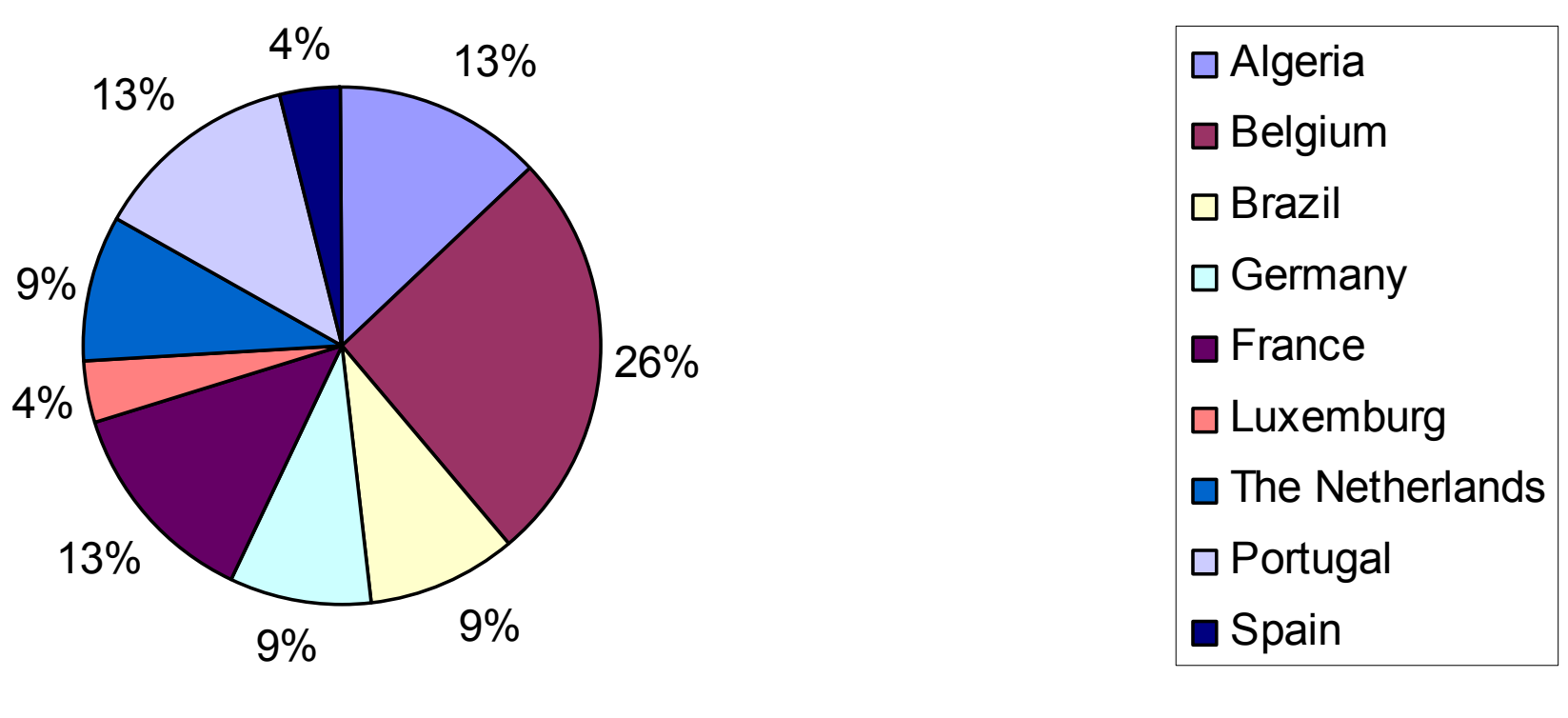
navb·cnac constructiv

- **7. The labor inspectorates have to be reinforced** with the appropriate resources to ensure the respect of OSH laws and regulations.

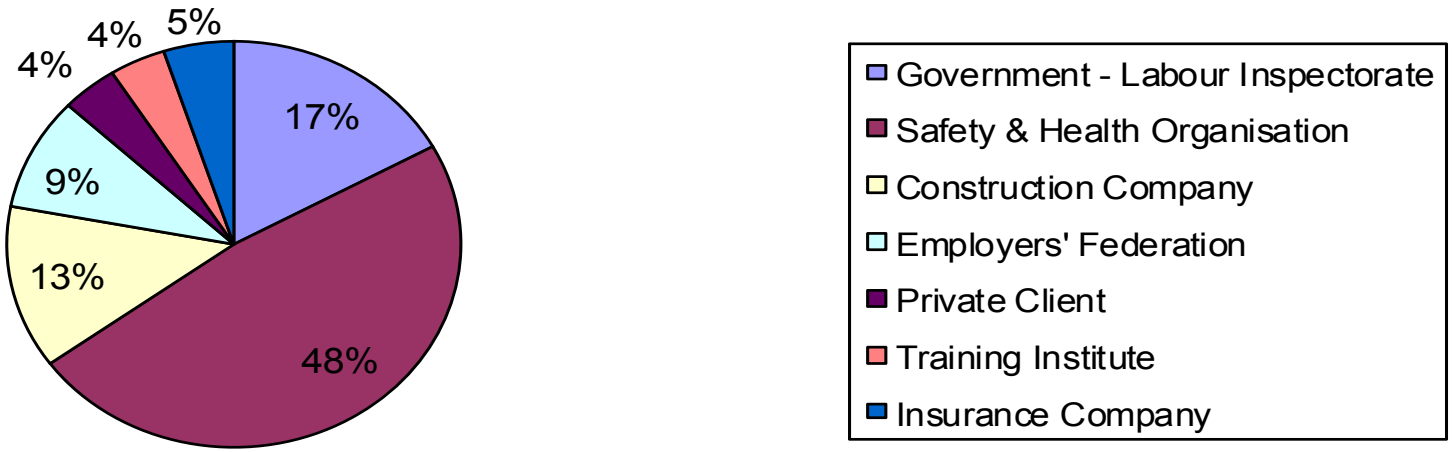
- **8. Public clients** have to **check the respect of OSH regulation** in order to prevent accidents and to get the best out of public money.

Impact of the Declaration of Brussels: Survey amongst stakeholders

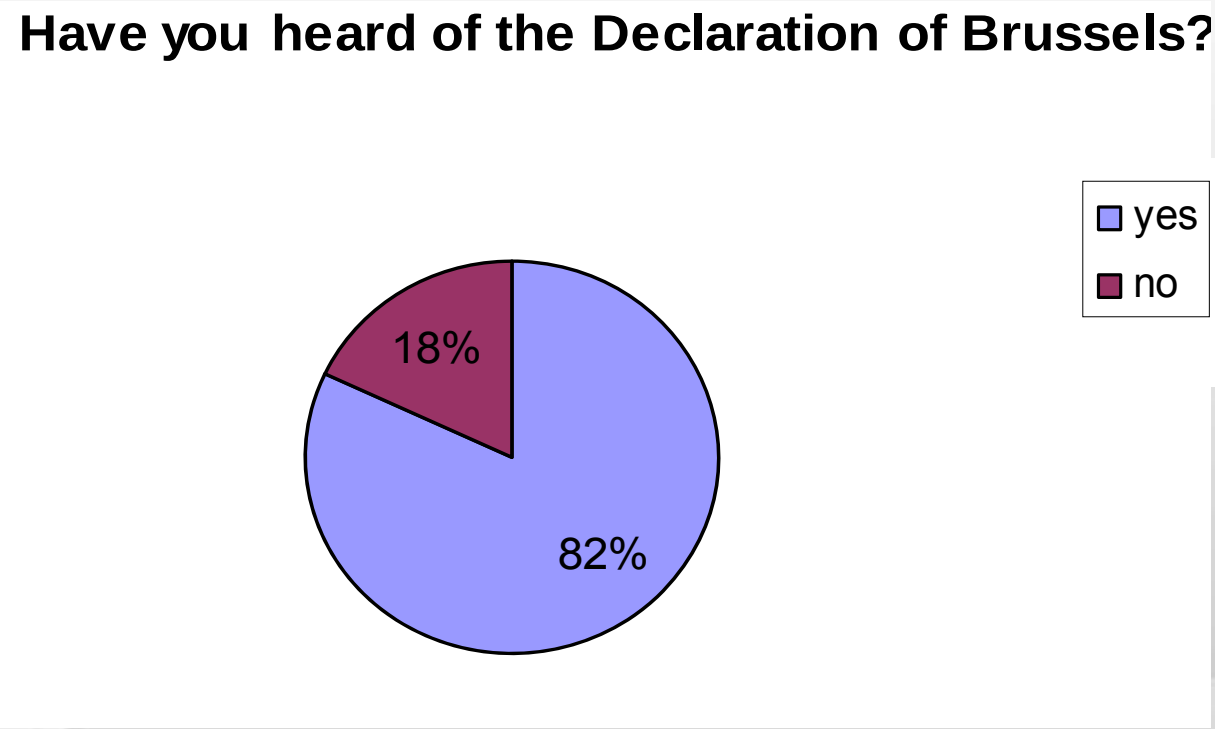
Survey participants: geographic spread



Survey participants: type of organisation



Results



navb·cnac
constructiv

Did the Declaration of Brussels have an impact on laws and regulations in your country?

- 13% of the respondents declare that there has been an impact on laws or regulations in their country.

Have OSH policies been brought in line with leading international levels of best practices within the framework of international cooperation, globally or regionally (e.g. ILO)?

navb·cnac
constructiv

Do OSH policies take into account the construction industry's peculiarities and do they involve the active participation of public authorities and social partners when implementing OSH strategies?

- 91% of the respondents declare that this has been achieved or is planned.

Have social security agencies and preventive bodies integrated safety and health into information material and education and training programmes?

Have actions been set up in order to raise awareness and create responsibility among other construction parties than the employers?

Do public clients check the OSH performance requested in tenders for publicly financed projects?

Have adequate instruments, aimed at measuring the efforts and progress of all participants in the work process based on proactive (not only reactive) monitoring, been implemented?

Recommendations made by the survey participants

navb·cnac constructiv

Awareness of the Declaration

- Awareness raising initiatives should certainly continue, e.g.:
  - References in publications and on websites for occupational physicians, clients, contractors, trade unions, …
  - Publication of best practices and FAQs on the ISSA-C website
  - Creation of a signature to include in emails
  - Mailing to all organisations, institutions and public agencies to ask for cooperation
  - Small and efficient information campaigns
  - Reference to the Declaration during the World Congress and other events

Recommendations made by the survey participants (2)

navb·cnac
constructiv

Content of the Declaration

- The content is generic and should not be revised yet.
- The Declaration could be completed with:
  - Annual addenda that propose specific themes for common action
  - A specific addendum for developing countries/economies in transition

Special thanks to:

- Chérif Abdmeziem, OPREBATPH, Algeria
- Boukerma, Ferhat Abbas University of Sétif, Algeria
- Jean-François Boulat, APST-BTP-RP, France
- Cornelis van den Berg, Aboma, the Netherlands
- Jan Vangeel, Besix NV, Belgium
- Jófilo Moreira Lima Júnior, Fundacentro, Brazil
- Michael Kirsch, BG BAU, Prävention, Germany
- Jean-Claude Poirier, ISSA Construction section, France
- Ramon Puig, European Network FOCUS, Spain
- Ricardo Jorge Garcez Marques da Cunha Reis, Tabique, Portugal
- Roque Puiatti, Ministry of Labour, Brazil
- Ulrik Van Soom, Mensura EDPB, Belgium
- Luc Van Thienen, STRABAG Belgium NV, Belgium

BOSTON • USA • 16-18 October 2012

XXXth International Symposium of the ISSA Construction Section on Occupational Safety and Health in the Construction Industry

CPWR THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH AND TRAINING

issa

Main Topic

navb·cnac
constructiv

- **Strategies for Integrating Occupational Safety and Health in the Construction Process: Research, Innovation, Best Practices.**
  - Safety and health in the life-cycle of the construction industry: Pre-construction; construction; post-construction
  - Safety and health at work training: Learning, Aims, Efficiency

Each topic will be discussed at three levels

- the industry
- the company
- the individual

navb·cnac
constructiv

www.issaboston2012.org