

Commemoration of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work in Central and Eastern Europe

April 28, 2011

The 2011 World Day for Safety and Health at Work focused on the implementation of an Occupational Safety and Health Management System (OSHMS) as a tool for continual improvement in the prevention of workplace incidents and accidents. An OSHMS is a preventive method to implement safety and health measures which consists of four steps and incorporates the principle of continual improvement. Its principles are based on the PDCA Cycle: PLAN, DO, CHECK, ACT.

Several events were organized in Central and Eastern Europe to celebrate the World Day and to highlight the importance of occupational safety in preventing workplace accidents.

In **Albania**, the Office of the ILO National Coordinator organized a tripartite roundtable on "Management System for Safety and Health at Work: A tool for continued improvement". The event was attended by the Inspector General of Labour, Ms. Vikrita Çuto, the UN Resident Coordinator in Albania and Resident Representative of UNDP Ms. Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun, representatives of the Ministry of Labour and State Labour Inspectorate, as well as representatives of employers' and workers' organizations.

Mr Alfred Topi, National Coordinator in Albania presented the most recent ILO report which advocates a step-by-step approach to be taken in applying OSH Management Systems. *"The inclusion of a management system to the implementation of workplace preventive and protective measures is essential in improving working conditions"*, said Mr Alfred Topi. *"With the active participation of social partners, management systems for safety and health at work will be able to find practical solutions for improving occupational safety and health."*

The General Labour Inspector, Ms. Vikrita Çuto, briefed participants on the progress made by Albania last year. In addition to the adoption of basic legislation, awareness raising campaigns were organized and the work of labor inspectors has been also intensified.

The representatives of social partners, employers and employees, while praising the progress made, also asked the Government to speed up the adoption of necessary by-laws for the implementation of the recently adopted Occupational Safety and Health Law. Representatives of employers' organizations expressed their readiness to cooperate and jointly act with the government and worker's organizations to improve safety and health conditions at their enterprises. They emphasized the need to develop curricula and training modules regarding safety and health at work trainings.



Finally, Ms. Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun, UN Resident Coordinator in Albania expressed the commitment of UN agencies to the establishment of a preventative culture of workplace safety and health.

More than 120 people attended a celebration in the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, inter alia the Minister for Labour and Social Policy Mr. Djeljalj Bajrami, Director of State Labour Inspectorate Mr. Goran Jovanovski, ILO Senior Specialist in Social Security Mr. Kenichi Hirose, representatives of employers' organizations and trade unions, representatives of the Norwegian Embassy, the Institute for Public Health, the Institute for Labour Medicine and members of the Macedonian Occupational Safety and Health Association.



Celebration of the World Day in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia started with one minute silence to honour workers who lost their lives at workplaces.

Development of a National Profile on occupational safety and health of Moldova was officially announced at a round table devoted to the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 27 of April in the **Republic of Moldova**. Several speakers emphasized the importance of the National Profile in order to reveal the real situation of occupational safety and health in Moldova. Social partners, relevant ministries, organizations and institutions will be involved in the development of a broad overview of workplace safety.



Representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Family, the National Confederation of Employers of Moldova and the National Confederation of Trade Unions of Moldova together with ILO officials participated in the Moldovan celebration.

In **Serbia**, high-level representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, "CATUS" trade union, Serbian Association of Employers and Labour Inspectorate of Serbia visited the "US Steel Serbia" metallurgical company with more than 5,000 employees in Smederevo near Belgrade on 28 April.



First line from left: Mr. Matthew Perkins, General manager of US Steel Serbia and Mr. Rasim Ljajic, Minister of Labour and Social Policy, who headed the high-level delegation of representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, "CATUS" trade union, Serbian Association of Employers and Labour Inspectorate of Serbia visiting US Steel Serbia.

The purpose of the visit was to demonstrate how an occupational safety and health management system works in a hot rolled steel production facility where the production process requires temperatures of up to 1200 degrees. Mr. Matthew Perkins, General Manager of US Steel Serbia explained that in the last 500 days they did not have any severe injuries.

After the visit, a panel discussion was organized where participants were informed about new regulations in the area of occupational safety and health (OSH) in Serbia, the state of the Serbian workplace safety and related ILO activities. Mr. Aleksandar Marjan, OSH Manager of the U.S. Steel Serbia also explained their best practices in the OSH management systems.

In **Ukraine**, the following events or activities were organized from 21 to 28 of April to commemorate the World Day for Safety and Health at Work:

Thematic meetings (collegiums) on occupational safety and health;

Press conferences to inform the public about international and national statistics on occupational accidents. The ratification of ILO Convention 155 and its Protocol along with ILO Convention 187 has been promoted;

An agreement between the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine and the State Service on Industrial Safety and Mining Supervision of Ukraine was signed on collaboration on occupational safety and health issues on 28 April;

Telephone "hot lines" have been set up;

Radio and TV broadcasts;

Rewarding the best employees in respecting occupational safety and health rules and standards at national, regional and sectoral level;

Rewarding the best enterprise in occupational safety and health management;

Designing of "corners" and stands devoted to the World Day for Safety and Health at enterprises;

Thematic fairs, sales and exhibitions;

Tree planting.



Ms. Olga Lytvyniuk, National Coordinator of the EU-ILO Project “Improving Safety and Health at Work through the Decent Work Agenda”, Mr. Mykhailo Volynets, Head of the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine and Ms. Tetyana Shudra, Deputy Head of the Free Trade Union of the Medical Workers of Ukraine at a press conference in Ukraine devoted to the World Day



Tree planting in Kiev to commemorate victims of workplace accidents