

WRITTEN QUESTION P-5719/08
by Jan Cremers (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Health and safety in the workplace

Research into workplace accidents, inter alia by the Dublin Foundation, has for years been showing not only that there are significant differences in safety risks between different industries and occupational groups, but also that differences exist between categories of workers.

Younger workers, inexperienced workers and employment-agency workers run proportionately higher risks. The reason may be that they are less aware of potential risks and/or that their induction training is inadequate. This gives rise to the following questions:

1. Does the Commission have any recent figures/research in this field, bearing in mind, inter alia, the extension of the scope of Directive 91/383/EEC¹?
2. How adequate is European law in this field?
3. If demonstrable problems exist here, will the Commission consult the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament on steps which need taking?

¹ OJ L 206, 29.7.1991, p. 19.