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REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE RUSSIAN NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTRE
ON SAFETY AND HEALTH (CIS) IN 2005

In 2005, the Russian National Information Centre on Safety and Health (CIS) continued to remain one of the main suppliers of information on occupational safety and health to all interested organizations and persons in the Russian Federation. Being an integral part of the network of the International Information Center of the ILO on occupational safety and health, the Centre has continued to maintain contacts and to exchange information with international and foreign structures of similar type. In the person of All-Russia Centre on Occupational Safety, Russian CIS under the instruction of the Ministry for Health and Social Development of Russia has carried out works of scientific- informative, methods and analytic character, initiated or actively participated in preparing and holding different kind of international conferences, seminars and separate meetings of Russian experts on occupational safety with their foreign colleagues.

In accordance with the regulations of IIC of the ILO on functions and main directions of the Russian CIS, the main attention was directed to the information backing to great, also Russian, actions on occupational safety and to publication of a quarterly Bulletin of the National Information Center on health and occupational safety in a series: Home Information(Otechestvennaya informatsiya) and a series Foreign Information(Zarubezhnaya informatsiya) .

Bulletins of the series Home information were compiled on the base of materials, received from official government, regional as well as from other sources, and they described burning problems of occupational safety and ways of their solving in the Russian Federation.

A considerable part of the material was devoted to issues of improving conditions of occupational safety and health directly at industrial enterprises and in industrial organizations, to exchanging advanced experience on occupational safety as well as to issues of more effective training of the personnel and to improvement of their skills. In the Bulletin, there were also published reviews of All- Russia meetings on occupational safety and health, advertisements about planned conferences of Russian specialists on the said topics.

In the Bulletins of the series Foreign Information, there were published materials, received from the ILO, the European Agency on Safety and Health at Work , foreign scientific and educational centres on occupational safety and health as well as information, obtained from foreign magazines writing about safety and health. The bulletins mainly contained materials, related to resolutions and recommendations, adopted by the ILO, analysis of the condition and state of affairs in the field of safety of labour in separate countries, statistics on traumatism in the world and in separate countries,

description of new methods of administrating occupational safety measures, reviews of the results of international congresses, conferences, symposia, including annotations on new books by foreign authors on the above mentioned subjects. In the bulletins of this series, there was regularly published information on some actions on occupational safety and health that had been held in EU or in some other world regions. Here one can mention, for example, that in the bulletins there were published materials, related to the campaigns, organized in the EU countries on the issue of noise reduction at work places, an informational backing was rendered to the international action on enhancing precaution measures while working with asbestos and asbestos containing materials.

The bulletin has regularly published information on the coming international specialized exhibitions, congresses, symposia and seminars on the occupational safety issues, on their programmes and conditions of participation in them. Informative consultative support was rendered to persons and organizations that wished to participate in them. Bulletins, including their electronic versions, were regularly sent to the Ministry for Health and Social Development of Russia and - to addresses of regional authorities, regional occupational safety and health centers, scientific research institutes and trade-union amalgamations of Russia.

In November 2005, in Moscow, collaborators of the Centre took an active part in organizing and holding the scientific - practical conference Economics of Occupational Safety and Health, in which there were delivered speeches by representatives of the Ministry for Health and Social Development of Russia, regional authorities on occupational safety, scientific research institutions, large enterprises, trade- unions and higher educational establishments. Among the guests of the conference there were Dr. Verner Blenk, director of the Moscow Regional ILO Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Ms. K. Bege and Ms. A.Gerke, scientific experts of the Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in Dresden(Germany), Mr. N.A. Lysiuk, director of National Scientific- Research Institute of Ukraine. All in all in this national scientific forum there participated over 250 persons. The results of the conference work and recommendations on improving occupational safety and health system, adopted by its participants, were published in the information bulletins.

Starting from 2003, CIShas actively supported the ILO initiative on organizing and holding a national campaign, devoted to The World Day for Safety and Health. Annually, on April 28, CIS together with the Labour Relations and State Civil Service Department of the Ministry for Health and Social Development of Russian Federation and also with the Moscow regional ILO Office, holds a meeting of representatives of authorities bodies for occupational safety and health, scientific institutions, employers' amalgamations, trade - unions and mass media in the form of a conference or in the format of " round table" discussions. In 2005, devoted to this Day, there was held a conference on the tasks of improving the culture of occupational safety measures; the conference was attended by Mr. Seijy Machido, coordinator of the ILO programmes on occupational safety and health.

On the initiative of CIS, on the eve of this day, Radio of Russia transmitted a broadcast on the tasks and problems of vocational training in

the Russian Federation. Brief information on the results of the campaigns, held in regions and at large industrial enterprises, was regularly sent over to the Moscow Representation of the ILO.

During the year, the contacts that CIS had with foreign organizations and specialists on vocational training, have continued to widen and develop. In December, with CIS participation and support in Moscow, at the premises of All- Russia Center of Vocational Safety, there was held a Russian- French seminar, devoted to the subject: The role of Insurance Companies in the System of Prevention of Industrial Accidents. The seminar was held within the framework of the programme of cooperation between the Federal Service on Labour and Employment of Russia and the Ministry of Labour of France. Last May, in Geneva, the representatives of CIS also participated in the working meeting of representatives of foreign CISs from European and the Mediterranean countries They had a meeting with the director of the ILO Safe Work programme Mr. Yukka Takala and Mr. William Solter, senior advisor of the ILO on conditions of labour and employment, as well as with Mr. E. Clivenstain, director of the International Information Network ILO - CIS. The further development of international contacts was facilitated by the information backing, rendered by CIS during preparations of Russian specialists for participation in the International Exhibition on Occupational Safety "A+A 2005", held in Dusseldorf; in the 29th International Scientific Congress that was held within the framework of the exhibition, as well as- in 17th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work that took place in the town of Orlando (USA) in September 2005. Considerable widening of contacts to the level of friendly cooperation, achieved as a result of mutual business-like visits of specialists, became a characteristic feature of the relations with the Central Institute of Occupational Safety- Research Institute of Poland, as well as- with the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health of BGAG in Dresden(Germany). Among close partners of the Russian CIS are still National Scientific- Research Institute of Occupational Safety of Ukraine and the Centre of Occupational Safety and Industrial Security of Belorussia. The partnership character of the relations between Russian and Belorussian sides became even stronger after the Belarussian- Russian Scientific - Practical Conference, held last September on the subject: Evaluation of Occupational Risk. Harmonization of Legislation on Occupational Safety of the Republic Belarus, the Russian Federation and the European Union.

Following up the general condition of occupational safety and health in the Russian Federation at present, one can state(on the basis of general data of the Federal Service of State Statistics of The Russian Federation) presence of a stable tendency in decreasing of occupational traumatism in the country. Thus, for example, the number of people who became victims of industrial accidents at work with loss of capacity to work for one day and more, including fatal accidents, has decreased from 271 thousand in year 2000 to 77.7 thousand in 2005.(In 2001- 145 thousand; in 2002 - 128 thousand; in 2003 - 107 thousand, in 2004 - 88 thousand). At this, the number of people who were victims of accidents per 1, 000 working people during this period has decreased from 5.1 units to 3.1 units.(In 2001 - 5.0; in 2002-4.5; in 2003- 3.9 in 2004 - 3.1). At the same time, the number of victims of industrial accidents at work with fatal outcome has decreased from 4,404 persons in year 2000 to 3,091 persons in 2004. (In 2001 -4,372 persons; in 2002 - 3,920 persons; in 2003 - 3,536 persons, in 2004 - 3,292 persons). Changes of the index of losses per 1000 working people for this period constituted: in 2000

-0.149: in 2001 - 0.150: in 2002 - 0.138: in 2003 - 0.131, in 2004-0.129, in 2005- 0.124.

In 2004, the number of persons, having for the first time diagnosed occupational diseases, (contamination) constituted 9,888 persons. (In 2000 - 9,280, in 2001-11,224, in 2002 - 11,090 persons, in 2003 - 10,121 persons). During this period, per 10, 000 working people index of illnesses, related to contamination, constituted: in 2000 - 1.81, in 2001 -2.22, in 2002 - 2.19, in 2003 - 2.05 and in 2004 - 2.04.

Losses of work time due to industrial accidents in 2005 constituted a little over 2. 5 million man hours (in 2004 - 2.8 million).

At this, for the period of 2000-2005, one can state a decrease in the number of victims of industrial injuries in all sectors of economy except for iron and steel industry (a growth of 0.15%), which to some extent reflects the growth of people, employed in this branch of economy. The largest contribution to the decrease of absolute figures of the industrial traumatism was made by agricultural sector, coal mining and wood processing industries. The lowest level of industrial injuries per 1000 working people in 2005 was registered in the service sector (hotels and restaurants) - (1.3), in public health care branch (1.4), in electricity generation and distribution of power, water and gas (1.7) persons. At the same time, last year the highest level of industrial traumatism per 1000 working people was still characteristic for agriculture (5.3), coal mining industry (4.7) and construction works sector (4.4).

A considerable contribution to the decrease of industrial traumatism was made by measures on improving conditions and occupational safety and, in particular, on certifying work places and carrying out inspection control of their condition, as well as by improvement of the system of upgrading skills of specialists on vocational training. In 2004, certification covered over 2.5 million work places. A certain contribution to the improvement of the situation in the field of occupational safety and health, was made by the Federal Inspection of Labour. According to data of The Federal Service on Labour and Employment of the Russian Federation in 2005 , the Federal Inspection of Labour has carried out 21,604 investigations of industrial accidents (in 2004 - 26,943), it registered in record books 4418 fatal industrial accidents(in 2004- 4924), it issued 213012 precepts on eliminating violations of labour rights of citizens (in 2004 - 23.9070). For not observing the demands of occupational safety they suspended the work at 4,533 industrial sites (in 2004 - 6,955) and 52,019 of units of equipment (in 2004 - 87,325). Because of not being trained (briefed) on occupational safety and health and the lack of required knowledge on vocational training, (which was revealed during tests), debarred from work were 127,391 persons(in 2004 - 126,526). The total amount of imposed fines for violations of the labour code, including laws on occupational safety, constituted 12,8416.5 thousand rubles (in 2004 - 10,5119.8 thousand rubles).

Accumulating and analyzing information on vocational safety in Russia and abroad, including on the activities of similar type international organizations, the Russian CIS is constantly filling its data bank with corresponding materials. In view of the fact that effectiveness of its work considerably depends on the character of its cooperation with other

organizations (including foreign ones), strengthening and expanding of such relations remained one of the main directions of its work during last year.

As a result, CIS acquired new partners in the person of a number of organizations in CIS countries and in the European Union, strengthened its contacts with international organizations dealing with occupational safety and health.

Being one of the links of the International information network of IIC of the ILO, the collaborators of the Russian CIS understand very well the importance of issues of widening the information field on the way of settling vital problems and in improving occupational safety and health efforts and, therefore, they consider establishing and strengthening contacts with kindred organizations to be one of their first priority tasks for the future.