Occupational Safety and Health in Europe’s Forestry Sector

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Key Message

Ensure adequate levels of safety and health at work in face of a just transition to green economy.

“The gradual expansion of green jobs will generate new occupational risks. This is caused by a change in work environments, by the introduction of new technologies, new substances and work processes, by changes in the structure of the workforce and the labour market and by new forms of employment and work organization. These will modify the OSH conditions of workrs.”

*ILO Background Note to Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication. UNEP, 2011*
Promoting Decent Work in a Green Economy

ILO Background Note to Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication. UNDP, 2011

Guidelines for labour inspection in forestry

International Labour Organization
OSH in the European Forestry Sector

- Recent European Directives on OSH
- Greater adoption of International Standards on the subject
- Noticeable shift in attitudes toward OSH at work
- Greater concern toward issues like ergonomics, occupational diseases, use of chemicals, etc
- Expansion of open trade and market economy
OSH in the European Forestry Sector

In spite of efforts to improve the situation, the forestry sector’s safety performance appears to have plateau–ed over the last 7–8 years.

### Fatal accidents in EU–15 countries from 1999–2004 in the category “Forestry, logging and related services”. Data from Eurostat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of fatalities reported in above category</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of non-fatal accidents reported with over three days’ absence</td>
<td>25334</td>
<td>26370</td>
<td>23545</td>
<td>26075</td>
<td>26118</td>
<td>24342</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data Source: Eurostat*
OSH in the European Forestry Sector

Accident rates are significantly higher than other sectors

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<tr>
<td>Average EU fatal accident incidence rates</td>
<td>3.5/100 000</td>
<td>12.7/100 000</td>
<td>12.6/100 000</td>
<td>Between 24 and 30/100 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Date Source: Eurostat*
Addressing OSH

- A preventative OSH culture
- A management system approach
- The promotion of safety and health
- National safety and health programs and initiatives
- Training and certification of forest operators
- Partnership building
- Expansion of regulation and its enforcement taking into account the change in technology/processes in face of the transition into green economy