



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

# EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY & HEALTH

Sectoral Committee

Weekly Update

**14.05.10**



## Contents

### ***1. Council***

- **Prevention of healthcare injuries**

### ***2. Commission***

- **Humanitarian Aid Assistance**
- **Workers mobility**
- **European SME Week 2010**

### ***3. European Year 2010***

- **Focus Week**

### ***4. Malta Standards Authority***

- **EUDAMED implementation**



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

## **... Council**

### **Rules to prevent injuries to healthcare workers**

The Council, during a meeting of the Education, Youth and Culture Ministers, adopted a directive aimed at achieving the safest possible working environment for healthcare workers through prevention from sharps injuries.

Injuries caused by needles and other sharp instruments are one of the most common and serious risks to healthcare workers in Europe and represent a high cost for health systems and society in general. According to healthcare experts, such injuries occur more than one million times per year, partly causing very serious consequences and sometimes leading to serious diseases.

The new Directive gives legal effect to a framework agreement concluded by the employers and the trade unions of the hospital and healthcare sector (HOSPEEM and EPSU) on 17 July 2009.

The Directive sets up an integrated approach to assessing and preventing risks and to training and informing workers. If a risk assessment reveals a risk of injury, the workers' exposure must be eliminated by taking measures such as implementing safe procedures for using and disposing of sharp medical instruments and disposing of contaminated waste, eliminating the unnecessary use of sharps and banning the practice of recapping.

Member states have three years in which to transpose the new directive into national law.

## **...Commission**

### **Humanitarian Food Assistance**

**COM (2010) 81 - REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL Food Facility: Interim report on Measures Taken.**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0081:FIN:EN:PDF>

The primary objectives of the Food Facility are to:

- (a) encourage a positive supply response from the agricultural sector in target countries and regions;
- (b) support activities to respond rapidly and directly to mitigate the negative effects of volatile food prices on local populations in line with global food security objectives, including UN standards for nutritional requirements; and
- (c) strengthen the productive capacities and the governance of the agricultural sector to enhance the sustainability of interventions.



### **Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee**

In line with these objectives, three categories of measures are eligible for financing under the Food Facility:

- (a) measures to improve access to agricultural inputs and services;
- (b) safety net measures; and
- (c) other small-scale measures aiming at increasing production based on country needs.

This interim report is being submitted in accordance with the reporting obligations defined in Article 11 of Regulation EC/2008/1337 (the Food Facility Regulation). It takes into account information up to the end of 2009. After providing a general context for the measures taken, the Report provides qualitative and quantitative information on the various steps taken thus far to implement the Food Facility Regulation (programming, formulation, contracting, and implementation), as well as the accompanying administrative and support measures (staffing, studies).

### **COM (2010) 127 - COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT An EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges.**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0127:FIN:EN:PDF>

This Communication complements COM (2010) 126 (listed in ESPH Update of 19.4.2010) on the provision of a common policy framework for the EU and its Member States in the fight against world hunger and malnutrition, thereby contributing towards achieving the first goal of the Millennium Development Goals.

Recent developments and future challenges require a new common food security policy, further strengthening EU leadership in the global food security agenda, and improving the effectiveness of EU assistance, in line with the Lisbon Treaty, the EU2020 initiative and the European Consensus on Development. Future food security challenges include population growth, pressures on natural resources and ecosystem services, and adverse impacts of climate change on agriculture, affecting growing conditions and making adaptation measures necessary. These challenges and other issues need integration into an overall policy framework.

This policy framework is built on the following measures:

1. Increasing the availability of food
2. Improving access to food
3. Improving nutritional adequacy of food intake
4. Improving crisis prevention and management
5. Maximising the effectiveness of food security investments

Towards the end of last year the European Union (EU), reacted to the growing food security challenges by adding €1 billion 'Food Facility', as a temporary measure to support those developing countries worst affected. The EU and its Member States are, and have been for many years, the most important and reliable players in world food security, both financially and politically.



**Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee**

**COM (2010) 138 - REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT Annual Report on Humanitarian Aid Policy and its Implementation in 2009.**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0138:FIN:EN:PDF>

The European Union's humanitarian aid policy enables it to demonstrate in practical terms its commitment to supporting those outside of the Union in need of assistance while they are at their most vulnerable. It contributes to fulfilling a strategic objective in external relations, as set out in the European Union's Treaty.

Through its Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO), the Commission provided needs-based EU humanitarian assistance to the victims of natural and man-made disasters in over 70 countries in 2009. Aid reached about 115 million people, and was worth a total of €930 million.

**COM (2010) 139 - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union within the Food Aid Committee as regards the extension of the Food Aid Convention, 1999.**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0139:FIN:EN:PDF>

The Food Aid Convention, 1999 (FAC) was concluded by the Community by Council Decision 2000/421/EC. It remains in force until 30 June 2010, following a further extension by decision of the Food Aid Committee at its 100th session on 5 June 2009.

As the current FAC expires in June 2010, the question of a renewal will be formally addressed in the forthcoming meeting of the Food Aid Committee on 4 June 2010.

The Commission is thus proposing that the Council establishes the following position on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, and authorises the Commission accordingly to either:

(1) vote on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, in accordance with Article XXV(b) of the Food Aid Convention 1999, in favour of the further extension of this Convention, for a period of one year, i.e. until 30 June 2011, if the following condition is met: the informal discussions of the FAC members on the future of the Food Aid Convention have achieved a significant progress (i.e. there is a reasonable expectation that negotiation/renegotiation talks on a future Convention will start in the course of 2010), prior to the 102nd session of the Food Aid Committee in London on 4 June 2010.

OR:

(2) formally oppose on behalf of the European Union and its Member States the emergence of a consensus in the Food Aid Committee, pursuant to Rule 13 of the FAC rules of procedures, favouring an extension of the Food Aid Convention, if the above condition in point (a) is not met.



**Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee**  
**Workers mobility within the EU**

**COM (2010) 204 Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on freedom of movement for workers within the Union (Codification)**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0204:FIN:EN:PDF>

**The Commission attaches great importance to simplifying and clarifying the law of the Union so as to make it clearer and more accessible to the ordinary citizen. This process is called codification.**

This aim cannot be achieved so long as numerous provisions that have been amended several times, often quite substantially, remain scattered, so that they must be sought partly in the original instrument and partly in later amending ones.

The purpose of this proposal is to undertake a codification of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 of 1968 on freedom of movement for workers within the Community. The new Regulation will supersede the various acts incorporated in it. This proposal fully preserves the content of the acts being codified and hence does no more than bring them together with only such formal amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.

**European SME Week 2010**  
**Promoting and supporting entrepreneurship**

**European SME Week 2010 (25May - 1June) is designed to promote and support entrepreneurship. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) run by dynamic entrepreneurs are the job generators of Europe.**

Over 2.7 million people are estimated to participate in the some 1000 events and activities that are being organised during the whole of May and June in 37 countries across Europe. It will showcase the support available to business at the European, national, regional and local level.

During these events, SMEs and micro-firms can share experiences and develop their businesses. There is also a special focus on promoting entrepreneurship as a career option, especially for younger people. Some countries will run company open days, which will provide an insight into the challenges and rewards of running a business.

First held in 2009, European SME Week is now central to the European Commission's actions to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly through the EU's Small Business Act (SBA). Adopted in 2008, the Act calls on the Union and its Member States to develop an environment "within which entrepreneurs and family businesses can thrive and entrepreneurship is rewarded".



## Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

More information on:

Malta - SME Week Activities

<http://www.finance.gov.mt/image.aspx?site=MFIN&ref=SMEWeekProgramme-en>

European SME Week 2010

<http://ec.europa.eu/sme-week> -

European Small Business portal

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/index_en.htm)

## *... European Year 2010*

### **Focus Week**

**As part of the activities being organised in Malta for 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion awareness campaign, the National Implementing Body within the Ministry for Education, Employment and Family is organising a Focus Week, between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May.**

This week involves NGOs and contributors who work closely with persons experiencing various forms of poverty and social exclusion.

The Focus Week is a major event which aims to attract public attention towards the need to fight poverty and social exclusion.

During this week, an exhibition with the participation of NGOs is being held at the ground floor of the Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family, Palazzo Ferreria, Valletta. The exhibition will be open daily between 8.00am and 5:00 pm (Monday to Friday) and from 9.00am till 12.00pm (Saturday and Sunday).

On Sunday 16th May a number of outdoor activities will be held in connection with the theme of poverty and social exclusion. WORLDFEST Day will be celebrated, in collaboration with Arka Foundation, at the Upper Barrakka Gardens in Valletta . This will commemorate World Fair Trade Day and EY2010 Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

At Buskett Roadhouse Gardens in Rabat, there will be a Parent and Child Spring Fair to create more awareness related to this European Year.



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

## **... Malta Standards Authority**

### **EUDAMED**

The European Databank on Medical Devices (Eudamed), has been established by a Commission Decision (2010/227/EU) to implement provisions laid down in Directives 90/385/EEC, 93/42/EEC and 98/79/EC on medical devices which stipulate that regulatory data collected in accordance with the Directives should be stored in a European database accessible to competent authorities.

In particular, the database should contain the following:

- data relating to registration of manufacturers and authorised representatives and devices, excluding data related to custom-made devices;
- data relating to Notified Body certificates issued or modified;
- data obtained in accordance with the vigilance procedure for incidents;
- data relating to clinical investigations.

This new Decision will **not** affect the placing on the market requirements for medical devices, but will drastically change the way competent authorities keep and store data on registration of devices, incidents, clinical investigations and Notified Body certification.

The database will harmonise data inputting between Member States and will allow easy and fast access to information. Thanks to such rapid communication channels between market surveillance authorities, the risk for patients of a safety incident or malfunctioning will be reduced. In particular, rapidly sharing information on any known incidents will diminish the risk of recurring incidents elsewhere in the EU.

The only impact on industry is that when registering medical devices with the Competent Authority (where this is applicable), manufacturers or importers will now be required to give their **postcode, phone or email**, and an **internationally recognized nomenclature code for their devices**, in addition to the already requested information. Such nomenclature may need to be obtained from private agencies at a cost. Note that this shall not apply to registration of custom-made devices.

This new procedure will enter into force on **1<sup>st</sup> May 2011**.

The Malta Standards Authority welcomes any feedback on the Decision by **4<sup>th</sup> June 2010**.

For more information contact MSA on: [helpdesk.msa@msa.org.mt](mailto:helpdesk.msa@msa.org.mt)

**More information on Eudamed:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/medical-devices/market-surveillance-vigilance/eudamed/>