



Editorial Second Benelux conference

On 25 June 2008, the ministers of labour and social partners from Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg met in Brussels at a conference entitled "Risk assessment: a key element in prevention culture". The objective was to assess the current situation in companies and exchange ideas and experiences.

A follow-up conference will be held on 25 May 2009. Benelux's ministers of labour and social partners will meet again, this time in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, to discuss quality of work against the backdrop of the economic and financial crisis.

The Lisbon employment strategy and the Community strategy on health and safety at work will form the framework for this conference. The challenges of sustainable entrepreneurship and social responsibility will be the themes considered in the first part. The second part will examine the creation of an effective framework for the production of management tools.

The ministers of labour will present their views on the implementation of the strategies and comment on the action that has been taken one year on from the signing of the Benelux charter on health and safety at work.



I cordially invite you to take part in this event, which will be held on Monday 25 May at the Chambre de Métiers, Luxembourg-Kirchberg. Send an e-mail to customer@prevent.be to let us know if you are interested.

Marc De Greef, Managing Director

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Conference

Restructuring and workers' health



On 6 May 2009, Prevent is organising a conference on the theme of health and restructuring.

The concept of health in a context of restructuring is often interpreted in a narrow sense, as referring to the health of the organisation in terms of economic competitiveness.

The concept of health

Health needs to be understood in a broader sense: during a period of restructuring, health refers among other things to the health of those who are compelled to leave the organisation as well as those who continue to work in a modified organisation. This broader concept also refers to 'collective health', in other words to the social climate, the spirit of collaboration and positive relations between colleagues and others.

Hires Plus

In 2009 the Hires Plus project will integrate the results of previous projects relating to restructuring (HIRES, MIRE, etc.). Its objective is to create interaction at national level between the national actors and the market.

The management suggestions formulated by the HIRES project will be discussed by the national actors in the context of the Belgian socio-economic climate. The Hires Plus project also represents an opportunity to create networks (health experts, social actors, the academic world, public institutions, etc.) in Belgium and Europe in order to arrive at a better definition of the concept and of an approach to the problems associated with health during a period of restructuring.

Conference

Prevent is organising a national conference on 6 May 2009. The participants will largely consist of decision-makers and social actors involved in the restructuring process, academics, health institutions and public institutions.

The conference will deal with the following subjects:

- producing a synthesis of the recommendations from the HIRES 2008 project;
- producing a summary of scientific research on health and restructuring;
- the Renault law: history, content, evaluation of the law after ten years;
- the European framework for healthy restructuring programmes and the role of the different social actors;
- national and international good practices;
- discussion panel with the social partners.

For more information: e-mail: veerle.eggermont@prevent.be, tel. 02 643 44 44.

Event

Road shows: Prevent is coming to meet you!

During the first six months of this year, Prevent is travelling around in your region to present its products and services, and in particular the PreventAssist and PreventLex subscription packages.

The presentations are held from 2 pm to 4 pm. There is plenty of opportunity for interaction with the participants.

The following presentation sessions are scheduled:

- 24 April 2009: Wavre
- 15 May 2009: Mons
- 12 June 2009: Marche-en-Famenne

These presentation sessions are free. As the number of places is limited, it is vital to register.

Event

Employment Week

The sixteenth annual Employment Week conference and exhibition will take place on 24 and 25 June at the Management Centre Europe in Brussels.



Employment Week provides an exceptional forum for numerous participants, companies, social partners and political decision-makers, who come to discuss the latest topics relating to the issue of employment. It is an opportunity for them to exchange viewpoints and opinions on the strategy that the European Union is using to strengthen the labour market in the Member States.

The programme for 2009 will deal with the following two themes: (1) human capital in Europe, skills development and the challenges posed by change today (2) the impact of the current economic situation on the labour market, and especially the questions of competitiveness, innovation (including the development of the green economy) and restructuring.

For more information about the themes that will be dealt with and the speakers, please consult the conference programme.

For more general information, visit the website www.employmentweek.com

Free places are available in the press area: info@summit-events.com

For more information or to register for the road shows: see the order form on the last page, or contact Prevent, tel.: 02 643 44 44, e-mail: customer@prevent.be, www.prevent.be/p/7PFL44-03
- PreventAssist: www.prevent.be/p/ASSIST
- PreventLex: www.preventlex.be
or contact us by e-mail: customer@prevent.be, tel.: 02 643 44 44.

Publication

PreventFocus: a special issue on young people

The March 2009 issue of the magazine *PreventFocus* is entirely devoted to education and to young workers. This thematic issue will be of interest to safety advisers working in schools, teaching staff and employers taking on new recruits. The main emphasis is on prevention upstream, i.e. in the schools, a process also known as 'mainstreaming'.

Young people still involved in too many accidents

According to figures from the Accidents at Work Fund (FAT), young people between the age of 15 and 29 are at higher risk of having an accident at work than other workers. They alone account for more than one-third of accidents at work - a total of 57,428 accidents in 2007. The figures, which are confirmed by a study of the literature, fully justify a special focus on young people, to ensure that they become more aware of the risks and are better trained.

Mainstreaming

If significant progress is to be achieved in occupational health and safety, it seems vital to instil a safety culture from the youngest possible age. This means that prevention efforts must involve the integration of this theme in education.

After explaining the mainstreaming concept and its various approaches, *PreventFocus* looks at two practical cases. The first example is a vocational and technical school in Genk, where close collaboration has developed with a carpentry firm. The second is a secondary school in Schoten, where one of the safety advisers has become engaged in introducing occupational health and safety projects both within the school and by means of visits to companies. In both cases, the idea is simple: the earlier young people are made aware of the importance of health and safety, the easier it will be for them to be alert to risks at work.

Stress and violence at school

On the subject of schools, it was important to reflect on everyday realities there: a survey on stress among secondary teachers has shown that they are more prone to stress than the average worker. As is known, violence and aggression are widespread in certain schools, and the consequences of this can be fairly serious, including burnout, insomnia and depression.

Early awareness-raising

The importance of a future-looking prevention culture is generally acknowledged nowadays. And the future means our children...It therefore makes sense to devise awareness-raising actions in schools, but also to give schools the structural means to conduct such actions themselves. Because some schools' priorities still lie elsewhere at present ...

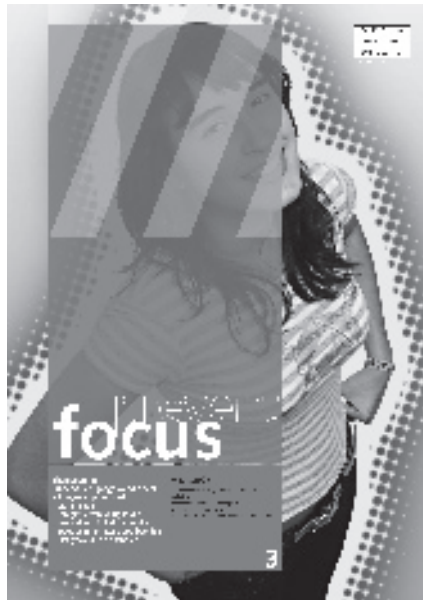
Conference

Assuralia and Prevent are organising a conference on 'Risk perception among young people: figures and actions'. This will be held at Secura on 25 March, from 10 am to midday. At the conference, Prevent and Assuralia will unveil the results of the survey conducted among young people in various Belgian schools.

PreventFocus is part of the *PreventAssist* subscription package. Subscribers automatically received a copy by post and have access to the summary and the full texts on the *Prevent* website.

For more information on *PreventFocus* and the subscription conditions:

<http://www.prevent.be/p/AOPF> or contact us by e-mail: customer@prevent.be, tel.: 02 643 44 44.



Publication

Objectif Prévention: a new information sheet offering practical instructions

Objectif Prévention, the workers' monthly on well-being and safety at work and in the home, publishes an information sheet offering practical instructions every month. The sheets feature clear illustrations on a specific safety topic, for example an explanatory list of the symbols found on protective clothing or some exercises to strengthen your back.

You can detach the sheets and keep them as memory aids; alternatively, you can download them from the *Prevent* website: <http://www.prevent.be/p/AOPF>.

Objectif Prévention is part of the *PreventAssist* subscription package. Subscribers automatically received a copy by post. *Objectif Prévention* is intended for workers, and multiple subscriptions can be taken out at lower rates. The publication can be sent directly to workers' home address.

For more information on *Objectif Prévention* and the subscription conditions:

<http://www.prevent.be/p/AOPF> or contact us by e-mail: customer@prevent.be, tel.: 02 643 44 44.



International training course 'Quality of Work Environment and Productivity'

Prevent Academy, in collaboration with NIVA (Nordic Institute for Advanced Training in Occupational Health), presents the first international training course on the link between the quality of the work environment and productivity.

The objective is to convince companies of the importance of integrating health and safety considerations into the company's overall strategy, from an economic viewpoint. The training programme is as follows: introduction to the themes, productivity and quality of work environment, the cost-benefit analysis, the cost of accidents and the cost of prevention, assistance with the compilation of a training report. The training will consist of trainers' presentations, working groups and discussions. It will be given in English.

The course is divided into two parts: the first week will take place at Leuven (Pellenberg), from 7 to 10 June 2009; the second week is scheduled for 8 to 10 March 2010 in Lapland (Finland).

For more information on the course and to register:

Prevent Academy, Brigit Cosemans and Conny Goethals, e-mail: b.cosemans@prevent.be and conny.goethals@prevent.be, tel. 016 33 89 30.

Consult the programme: http://www.niva.org/courses/4905_work_environment_and_productivity.htm

Networks

Prevent a partner of the Topic Centre Occupational Safety and Health (TC-OSH)

On 27 and 28 January, the launch meeting was held in Brussels of the new Topic Centre Occupational Safety and Health (TC-OSH). This consortium brings together 21 European partners on behalf of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (Bilbao). In previous years, Prevent has acted as a partner and coordinator for several projects of the Topic Centre Work Environment" (TCWE) and the Topic Centre Risk Observatory (TCRO). These two Topic Centres now form the new TC-OSH. Its objective is to collect and process information, scientific research and examples of good practices on questions of health and safety at work, by issuing reports, fact sheets, 'e-facts', etc.

All this information is used to disseminate and exchange knowledge about occupational safety and health. The research results are also used to steer policy at national and European level. The information may be consulted on the Agency's website: <http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications>.

Prevent will also be collaborating on several projects this year:

- a study of the literature on accidents at work and occupational diseases among the self-employed;
- a report on good practices in the transport sector;
- a report on good practices relating to health promotion for young workers;
- a fact sheet on psychosocial stress on workers in the healthcare sector;
- a report on the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders in agriculture.

For more information: e-mail: veerle.eggermont@prevent.be, tel. 02 643 44 44.

Prevent is a multidisciplinary institute centred on the prevention of occupational risks through the promotion of the quality of working conditions and the improvement of work organisation. The institute provides support, advice and information for businesses and organisations, such as occupational accident insurers, external prevention and protection services, sectoral organisations, the social partners, the government and other societal actors.

Prevent is dedicated to the development, collection and mobilisation of occupational safety and health knowledge. To this end, the institute carries out research and studies centred on practical experience. In addition, it gathers information and documentation from all over the world. Lastly, the institute contributes actively to the development of regional, national, and international networks in order to exchange information and experience.

The institute transfers its accumulated knowledge using various means such as consulting, disseminating information and documentation, writing and editing publications, developing training programs and carrying out information and awareness campaigns. The institute gives particular attention to the issue of occupational safety and health in SMEs.

prevent

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