

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Steering Committee of the EUROSHNET network, it is my great honour and pleasure to welcome you to the **3rd European Conference on standardization, testing and certification – SAFER PRODUCTS FOR COMPETITIVE WORKPLACES**.

The subject matter of our conference engages the attention of all the actors of the Common European Market, this is to say all those who are involved in designing, production and introduction to the market of products which comply with the best standards as well as consumers and users. Success of those processes is the main driving force of competition and economic growth in the European Union.

Globalisation we experience in all areas of life, justifies the use of common regulations, and for sure, standardization, by harmonizing technical requirements, makes trade exchange easier.

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Your presence here demonstrates how important this subject is. We have 160 representatives of all the stakeholders involved in creating and functioning of the Common European Market, in this 110 from abroad. I am confident that the conference will be an excellent opportunity to exchange views and experience in the area of standardization, testing and certification.

I wish you fruitful discussions and pleasant stay in Krakow – one of the most beautiful Polish cities which, from historical perspective, always integrated development of European culture.

I would like to give a very warm welcome to:

1. **Mrs Laure Ginesty** – representative of the French Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Family and Solidarity on the occasion of the French presidency in the European Union

2. Representatives of the European Commission:

- **Mr Jacques McMillan** - DG Enterprise and Industry, who has already participated in EUROSHNET conference in Paris in 2005

- **Mr Georges Herbillon** – DG Employment, Social Affaires and Equal Opportunities

- **Mr Ian Fraser** - DG Enterprise and Industry

3. Representatives of European standardisation institutions

- CEN : **Mr Ernst-Peter Ziethen**

- CENELEC : **Mr Jean Paul Vetsuypens**

4. Representatives of the governmental Polish Institutions:

- **Mr Tomasz Schweitzer** – President of the Polish Committee for Standardisation

- **Mr Marek Walczak** – President of the Office for Technical Inspection

- **Mr Grzegorz Paździorek** – Director of the State Mining Authority

5. A very special welcome should be given to the representatives of the institutions organising the conference:

- **Mr Jean-Luc Marié** – Director General of INRS,

- **Mr Philippe Jandrot** – Deputy Director of INRS,

- **Mr. Hans-Joachim Wolff** – Chairman of the Board of the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV),

- **Mr. Walter Eichendorf** – Deputy Director General of the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV),
- **Mr Norbert Breutmann** – Chairman of the Commission for Occupational Health and Safety and Standardization (KAN),
- **Mr Joachim Lambert** – Director of the KAN Secretariat,
- **Mr Dirk Moritz** – from the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs,
- **Mr Raphael Haeflinger** – Director of Eurogip,
- **Mrs Anne Héger** – President of the board of Eurogip,
- **Mr Harri Vainio** – director of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health,
- **Mrs Irena Sajkowska** – representative if the Polish Social Insurance Institution.

I would like to mention here **Dr. Daniel Podgórski**, Deputy Director of CIOP-PIB, who took care of all the arrangements necessary to organise the conference.

I would like to also welcome social partners, namely:

6. **Mr Stefano Boy** – representative of trade unions

And representatives of organizations that are crucial for the implementation of the outcomes of our conference:

7. **Mr Phil Papard** – Chairman of the ADCO Group Machinery

8. Representatives of **PPE** and **machinery manufacturers**.