



**Recent directives in the social field:
and their possible impact on
standardization**

European Commission (DG EMPL/F4)



Standardisation & directives in the social field

**EU Treaty contains
provisions to promote
economic and social
progress**



Standardisation & directives in the social field

**EU Treaty contains
strong social legal
corpus**



Standardisation & directives in the social field

Title XI

**Social policy, education, vocational
training and youth**

(Art. 136 – 145)



Standardisation & directives in the social field

Title XI

Social policy, education, vocational training and youth

(different from title VI:

Common rules on competition, taxation and approximation of laws)



Standardization & directives in the social field

Amongst other areas:

- Working environment to protect workers' health and safety
- Working conditions

**Council may adopt by means of directives,
minimum requirements (Art. 137.2.(b))**



Standardization & directives in the social field

On the one hand:

- **Objective: Safety and quality but « product » & « market » oriented**

On the other hand

- **Objective: Safety and well being but « situation » & « workplace » oriented**



Standardization & directives in the social field

You can have the best and safest vehicle in the world,



If the driver is tired, not well trained, drunk or worse,

You may create conditions for real problems.



EU legislation for H&S at work

- **Responsibility on employers**
- **Ex-ante risk assessment mandatory**
- **Eliminate or reduce (all) risks**
- **Apply collective protective measures before personal ones**
- **Information, training and consultation of workers**
- **Appropriate medical surveillance**



Standardisation & directives in the social field

Example of synergy:

- **Directive 89/656/EEC** on minimum health and safety requirements for the use by workers of personal protective equipment
- **Directive 89/686/EEC** on the approximation of laws of MS relating to personal protective equipment



References to standards in directives in the social field

Recent case of physical agents directives

- **Directive 2002/44/EC (vibration)**
- **Directive 2003/10/EC (noise)**
- **Directive 2004/40/EC (EMF)**
- **Directive 2006/25/EC (optical radiation)**



References to standards in directives in the social field

Recent case of physical agents directives

- **No direct reference to any Standard for exposure limit values (although inspired from)**
- **Reference to Standards for accompanying « burden »: evaluation of risks or measurement methods. Simplified adaptation mechanism foreseen**



References to standards in directives in the social field

Recent case of physical agents directives

- No systematic approach
- **STANDARDS** = implementation tools and not a reference for setting limits or working conditions
- Most interesting case: EMF directive
(reference to a future CENELEC standard for assessment/measurement of exposure values)



Standardisation & directives in the social field



*Thank you
for
your attention*

❖ *dziękuję*