

# BUSINESSEUROPE



## ETUC / ETUI-REHS Conference: OFFENSIVE AGAINST MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS

The employers comments

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Bob Koning

On behalf of BusinessEurope

# European Commission

- MSD are on the increase in most EU member states
- The existing legislative framework does not adequately cover all work situations or ergonomic risk factors
- A new directive on MSD is necessary

# Employers comments 1

- Small scientific base:
  - 2 workforce surveys
  - No scientific prove for increase or decrease of workrelated MSD
- Not sufficient provisions in the current legal framework for covering MSD problems?
  - General provisions in the Framework directive
  - Specific H&S directives including provisions to prevent and manage MSD risks
  - Machinery directive: provisions on ergonomic principles regarding the design and construction of machinery

# Employers comments 2

- MSD remain an important issue:
  - Not due to a lack of legislation in this area
  - But due to the complexity of MSD, its multifarious and multifactorial nature
- Furthermore: many individual, non work related factors, such as:
  - Physical disposure
  - Activities in private time
  - Lifestyle

# Employers comments 3

What can be done on Community level?

- Awareness-raising activities (such as SLIC-campaign 2006; European Week 2007)
- Exchange of experience
- Dissemination of good practice
- Investigate the links between causes and effects
- Elaborate sector and workplace oriented toolkits
- Scientific based cause-effect levels are lacking → a limit value approach is not appropriate (and in many cases impracticable)

# Employers comments 4

What can be done on a company and sectoral level?

- Rising awareness of risks and risk factors
- Improve information on appropriate prevention strategies and possible risk prevention measures
- Increase know how with regard to management of occupational MSD risks
- Elaborate sector and workplace oriented toolkits
- Provide relevant information for workers

# Employers comments 5

- Finally:
  - The integration of updated provisions and new detailed and technical provisions into a combined directive cannot be regarded as a simplification of the existing framework
  - Avoid new formal duties for employers which increase complexity and costs without helping to achieve the goal of better MSD prevention