



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT
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INFO LETTER

(ILO activities)

In the frame of 28th of April, the “World Day for Safety and Health at Work Place”, the Office of ILO National Correspondent of Albania, organized on 29th of April 2003 the “ILO Day” in Tirana. A memorial meeting under the slogan “REMEMBER THE DEAD – FIGHT FOR LIVING” brought together representatives of the Government, Social Partners, UN Agencies, etc.

The meeting was addressed by:

- Mr. Alfred TOPI, ILO National Correspondent in Albania;
- H.E. Valentina LESKAJ, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs;
- Mr. Gezim KALAJA, President of BSPSH (Workers);
- Mr. Bashkim SALA, President of KOP (Employers);
- Mr. Kastriot MUÇO, President of KSSH (Workers);
- Mr. Koço KOKEDHIMA, President of BOBSH (Employers), and
- Mr. Abdulla OMURI, President of Association of Work Invalids.

The ILO National Correspondent informed the meeting on the new “ILO Day”, following the announcement of ILO Director General of last year for observing an annual World Day for Safety and Health at Work, to be organized on or around 28th of April. Information has been delivered on the situation of accidents throughout world, emphasising the great number of dead people, due to the lack of Safety and Health conditions. The following was a call to Government and Social Partners, those who are responsible for the development of production and social life, making them aware on their accountability towards these processes.

The Minister of Labour emphasised what has been done so far and what the Ministry of Labour is doing actually in respecting the Safety and Health Culture in Work. The Inspectorate of Labour is the governmental body, which takes care on the protection of the workers during the working process. The latter is actually fighting with informal job, which occupies a considerable part of economy.

The Trade Unions expressed themselves in the protection of the workers’ rights. They made appeal to the Parliament and Government, asking their accountability in protecting the workers. The Independent Trade Union asked the Government to take care also on Albanian workers abroad. The Confederation of Trade Unions emphasized again the importance of collective agreements and asked for broadening of the area (economic branches) covered by this tool.

Employers did agree on what has been said related to the working conditions in Albania. They are looking forward on new and modern legislation, including the Labour Code, and ask for more institutionalized relations with Trade Unions. Employers did appeal the Government and asked better secure conditions in order to run successful businesses.

The representative of Work Invalid Associations made a picture of complex situation of work invalids in Albania. Some of the facts provided in the meeting:

Albania has got 32,000 work invalids. Despite the illnesses gained during the working period, they suffer and live in very difficult economic situation. There are 9,000 “full” invalids of work and they get each month a pension which varies from 50 to 53 USD

(equivalent). The number of “partial” invalids is 15,200 and they get monthly pensions of 21 to 36 USD. Invalids from ex-agricultural cooperatives get from 8 to 19 USD. 78% of invalids are breadwinners and they take care with their pension on 4.3 to 5.7 dependents.

The Invalid Associations representative expressed the opinion of these Associations on the actual economic situation of the country. He said that these Associations are aware on these conditions and, consequently, they do not do the opposition to the Government. But they ask the Government and the entire society, to think on their situation and to solve their problems step by step.

Set of documents, including the paper “Safety in Numbers – pointers for a global safety culture at work”, the poster “Safety Culture at Work”, papers “International events to mark World Day for Safety and Health at Work” and “Remember the dead – fight for the living”, produced by Ms. Annie Rice of SRO - Budapest, and other ILO publications, were made available for each participant.

The meeting lasted 90 minutes and was attended by RTSH - RadioTelevision of Albania (public television station) and some private TV stations. The RTSH informed the public on this event during the Central News Emission.

The event got the highest evaluation from all participants.

Alfred Topi
National Correspondent
Albania