

Summary

of the ILO World Day for Safety and Health at Work in Ukraine

Today on the 8th of May 2003 there was a wrap-up meeting in the State Committee on Surveillance over Occupational Safety and Health to discuss the results of the Week for Promotion of Safety Culture at Work on the occasion of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work. In Ukraine this Week was organized between 21 and 25 April pursuant to the Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers (the Government) of Ukraine. The Organizational Committee of the Week (headed by the State Committee's head Mr. Sergiy Storchak and composed of representatives of different ministries, State Committees, employers and trade unions, researchers and journalists as well as the ILO National correspondent in Ukraine) undertook the responsibility for development of the activities plan as well as for information campaign. As noted during the meeting 8 ministries, 3 State Committees and National Space Agency as well as all 27 regional public administrations and most of the regions, cities and towns were involved in different events during this Week. The Organizational Committees on World OSH day and the Week were established in all regions, ministries and State Committees.

Within the framework of the Week 60 seminars and meetings on the issues of occupational safety and health were conducted in the regions of Ukraine. Different services of the State Committee on Surveillance over Occupational Safety and Health and response departments of the ministries dealing with OSH have carried out about 1000 comprehensive surveys and task inspections on industrial safety at the enterprises.

Over 60 scientific and practical conferences and round tables dedicated to the safety culture of the population were organized, including 24 round tables – by the Ministry of Fuel and Energy of Ukraine.

Results of the competitions to determine the safest enterprise were summed up by the ministries and regional public authorities. Among the winners there were around 80 enterprises, 50 employers and 287 workers.

Employers' and trade unions' organizations, especially at the regional level, were actively involved in the preparation and marking of the Week. They organized live TV and radio broadcasting of the round tables on OSH issues as well as TV "phone hot lines".

Between 21 and 28 of April several events were organized to commemorate workers who died at work. Such events took place namely in Donetsk region and were dedicated to the commemoration of the dead miners. In Makiyivka town, Donetsk region a memorable stone was laid at the place of future monument to the dead miners. In Dnipropetrovsk and many other regions of Ukraine visits of the families of workers who died at work were organized, they were provided financial support and disabled workers were offered wheelchairs.

Activities in the frame of the Week have been widely highlighted in mass media, including at the national level. There were 37 special TV and 55 radio broadcasts on occupational safety and health and World Day for Safety and Health at Work. Over

100 articles, related to these events were published in different newspapers, magazines and bulletins. Namely in the magazine called Labour Protection, issued by the State Committee on Surveillance over OSH there is a summary of the ILO report "Safety in numbers" with a foreword by the ILO Director General Mr. Juan Somavia. Press releases, sent by DCOMM, ILO-Geneva, as well as interview of Mr. Jukka Takala, Director, IFP SafeWork, and the summary of the ILO SafeWork programme have been placed on the Committee's Web-site.

Drawing attention of the State and local authorities, employers, trade unions and NGOs to the labour protection issues as priority national security challenges allowed improving labour protection and increasing level of technological discipline.

The number of fatal industrial injuries for the Week decreased by 32 % against the same period of the last year. This is namely the case of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Lviv, Zaporizhya and Cherkassy regions. For this period in 16 regions of Ukraine none fatal injury or industrial accident was reported. The same concerns enterprises of the Ministry of Fuel and Energy of Ukraine.

During the final meeting of the Organizational Committee, responsible for marking of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work and for the Week for Promoting Safety Culture at Work it was decided to initiate the conduction of the yearly Week on the occasion of the World OSH day before the Government of Ukraine and start necessary work as early as in January next year. This decision is based on a very positive attitude of the ministries, State Committees, regional state administrations towards the measures, taken during this Week and their support by trade unions and employers. It was also decided to reach closer cooperation of the State Committee on Surveillance over Occupational Safety and Health and the State Committee on TV and Radio issues in the field of highlighting OSH issues in the national and regional TV and radio stations on a regular basis. This cooperation will involve ILO participation in terms of information provision. Within the upcoming days a special agreement between the two above Committees will be elaborated.

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