

Bilbao, 29 JUN 2015  
Our ref: NET.MNG(2015)D/1472

**Subject:** Response to Consultation: "Towards a new European Neighbourhood Policy"  
**Name:** European Agency for Safety and Health at Work  
**Type:** EU Agency  
**Location** Bilbao, Spain  
**Contact** Santiago de Compostela 12, 5th floor - 48003 Bilbao – Spain  
[information@osha.europa.eu](mailto:information@osha.europa.eu)

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) welcomes the opportunity to participate in this joint consultation "Towards a new European Neighbourhood Policy". Since 2014, EU-OSHA has participated in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), with the support of the European Commission, to enable ENP partner countries to participate in the work of the Agency.

EU-OSHA supports the process of identifying a new ENP that is adapted to the different challenges and opportunities presented by a changing European neighbourhood. Furthermore, EU-OSHA is confident that the consultation and discussions arising from it, will deliver an ENP capable of achieving the objectives of both the EU and its ENP partners.

The participation of EU Agencies in the ENP is an important element of the current programme. EU-OSHA is confident that EU Agencies can continue to play a valuable role in any future programme, providing links between the Member States, the European Institutions and ENP partner countries.

During the implementation of activities with ENP partner countries, EU-OSHA has witnessed a positive response from governments and social partners to collaboration with the EU in the field of occupational safety and health. As a tripartite organisation, EU-OSHA is well placed to provide support to governments and social partners in the European neighbourhood. Through its existing connections, EU-OSHA has also been able to ensure close cooperation with international bodies such as the International Labour Organisation in line with the EU Strategic Framework for Occupational Safety and Health.

One of the central aims of the ENP is to support sustainable economic and social development. This cannot be achieved without good occupational safety and health practices. Jobs that damage a person's health or put them at risk of harm are unsustainable for workers, and particularly younger workers. However, bad occupational safety and health is also unsustainable for businesses and for governments. As such, cooperation aimed at economic development should take into account the need to improve working conditions and develop good occupational safety and health practices to ensure that economic development is both sustainable and inclusive.

With an effective modern occupational safety and health system, the EU is in a position to provide targeted support to its partners in the European neighbourhood to achieve lasting improvements in occupational safety and health. As such, EU-OSHA believes that the importance of occupational safety and health to sustainable economic development should be reflected in any new instrument for cooperating with countries in the European neighbourhood.



Christa Sedlatschek  
Director