

Recent developments in the EU OSH area

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Occupational Cancer Burden

- Cancer is the first cause of work-related deaths in the EU
- 52% of occupational deaths are attributed to cancer, compared to 24% for circulatory diseases
- More than 100,000 deaths are attributed to occupational cancer in the EU every year

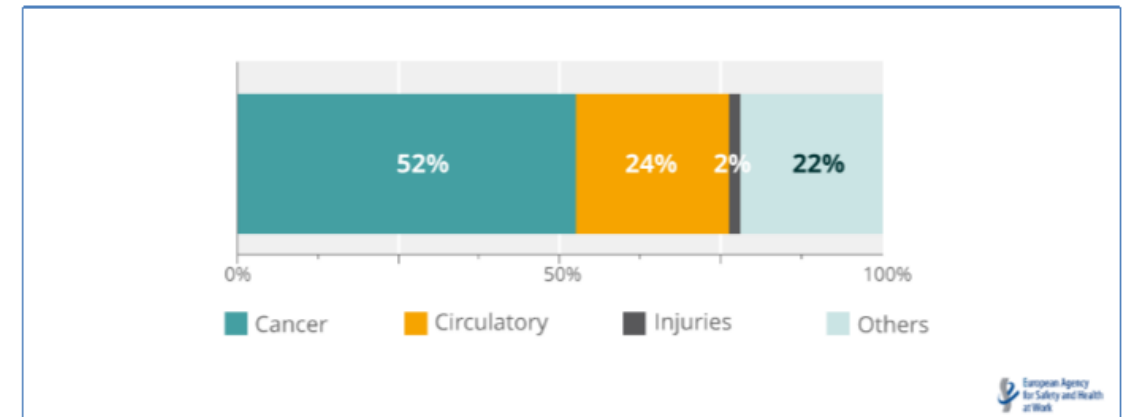


Figure 1: work-related deaths in the EU (2017)

EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

- The Chemicals Strategy ([COM\(2020\) 667 final](#)) was adopted on 14 October 2020
- Chemicals = fundamental role for human well-being and for green and digital transition
- The Chemicals Strategy will:
 - **Ensure better protection** of human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals
 - **Boost innovation** for safe and sustainable chemicals
 - Enable the transition to chemicals that are **safe and sustainable by design**
- First step towards the **Zero pollution ambition** for a toxic-free environment announced in the **EU Green Deal**

Chemicals Strategy – OSH related Actions

- strengthen **protection of workers** by defining, in the process of the upcoming Strategic Framework for Health and Safety at work, further priorities for addressing workers' exposure to hazardous substances, including by identifying most harmful substances for which the Commission will propose to set occupational limits following the established consultation process in the area of health and safety at work. Also, strengthen protection of workers, notably by proposing lowering existing occupational limit values for lead and asbestos and establishing a binding limit value for di-isocyanates.

+ many other actions or group of actions for which DG EMPL.B3 will be consulted (High Level Roundtable, one substance – one assessment concept – Generic Approach to Risk Management, etc.)

European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan

- The EPSR Action Plan was adopted on 4 March 2021
- Outlining concrete actions to further implement the principles of the EPSR
- Joint effort by MS and the EU, with the active involvement of social partners and civil society
- Porto Social Summit in May 2021

EPSR Action Plan – OSH related Actions

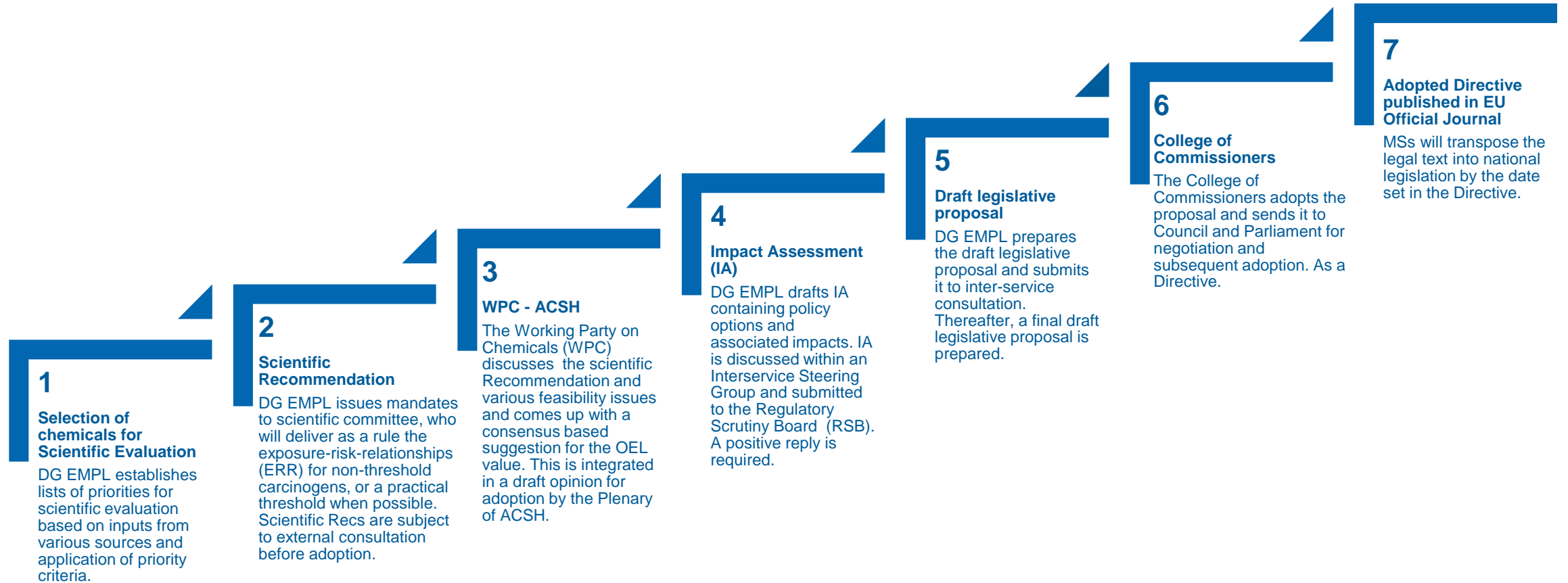
The Commission will:

- Present in Q2 2021 a **new Occupational Safety and Health Strategic Framework 2021–27**, to update protection standards for workers and tackle traditional and new work-related risks
- Subject to the outcome of the ongoing consultation of social partners, present legal proposals in 2022 to **further reduce workers' exposure to hazardous chemicals including asbestos**

The Commission encourages:

- Public authorities and social partners to ensure the **application and enforcement of existing rules**

Commission's process to set OELs



Ongoing OSH initiatives – CMD IV

- **Commission** proposal adopted on 22 September 2020
- Acrylonitrile, nickel compounds and benzene
- **Council** negotiation mandate approved on 25 November 2020
- **EP EMPL Committee** Report adopted on 25 March 2021
- **Interinstitutional negotiation** should start in May

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College of Commissioners

The College of Commissioners adopts the proposal and sends it to Council and Parliament for negotiation and subsequent adoption. As a Directive.

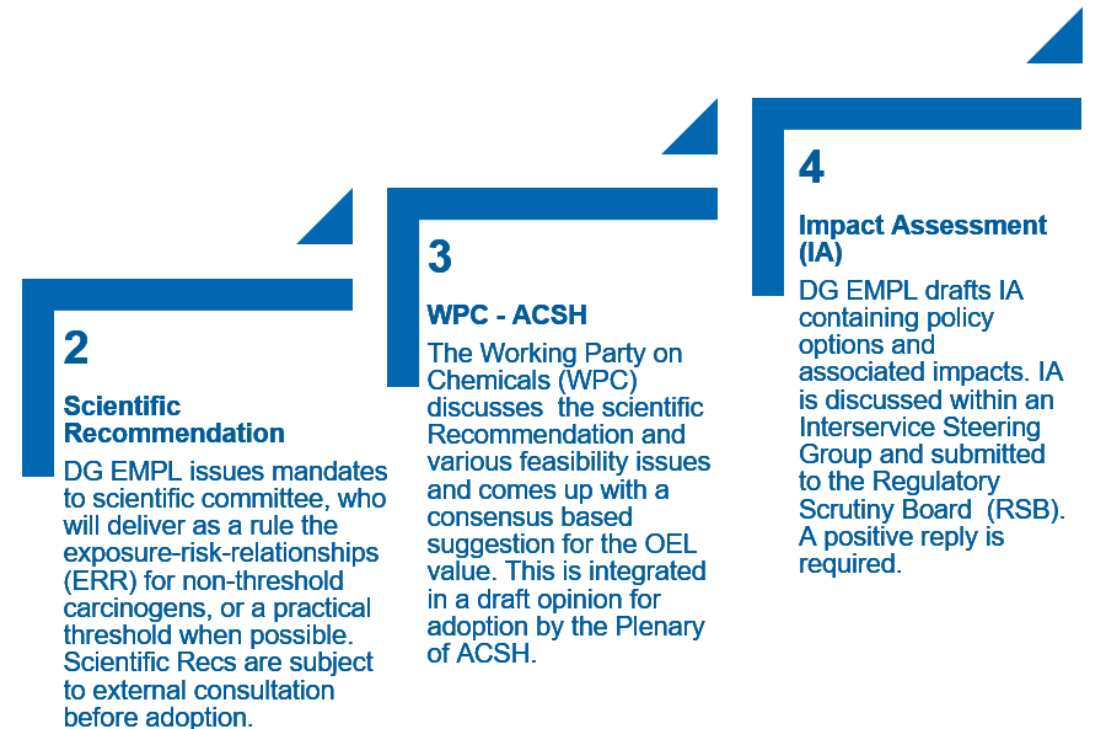
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Adopted Directive published in EU Official Journal

MSs will transpose the legal text into national legislation by the date set in the Directive.

Ongoing OSH initiatives – Asbestos

- Asbestos = key occupational carcinogen
- Ongoing **RAC Opinion** with a deadline of July 2021
- Ongoing **External Study** with a deadline of September 2021
- **Social Partners Consultation**
 - 1st phase completed
 - 2nd phase in Q3 2021
- Discussions within the **WCP** in 2021



Ongoing OSH initiatives – Lead* & Diisocyanates

- **RAC Opinions** adopted in June 2020
- Ongoing **External Study** with a deadline of September 2021
- **Social Partners Consultation** to be launched in late 2020 early 2021
- Discussions within the **WCP** are expected to start in 2021

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WPC - ACSH

The Working Party on Chemicals (WPC) discusses the scientific Recommendation and various feasibility issues and comes up with a consensus based suggestion for the OEL value. This is integrated in a draft opinion for adoption by the Plenary of ACSH.

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Impact Assessment (IA)

DG EMPL drafts IA containing policy options and associated impacts. IA is discussed within an Interservice Steering Group and submitted to the Regulatory Scrutiny Board (RSB). A positive reply is required.

***Lead and its compounds = major reprotoxic substance**

EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work

- First OSH-related EU Strategy in 2002
- Last OSH Strategic Framework covering the period 2014-2020, with three major health and safety at work challenges:
 - **Improving implementation of existing health and safety rules**, in particular by enhancing the capacity of micro and small enterprises to put in place effective and efficient risk prevention strategies
 - **Improving the prevention of work-related diseases** by tackling new and emerging risks without neglecting existing risks
 - Taking into account of the **ageing of the EU's workforce**

EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work

- [Commission Work Programme 2021](#): *“Drawing lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and against the backdrop of the changing world of work, the Commission will come forward with a new EU strategic framework on health and safety at work”*.
 - ➔ A strong social Europe including a new EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at work is a **political priority** for the Commission
- COVID-19 pandemic has shown how crucial OSH is for protecting workers, the functioning of our society and the continuity of critical activities
- Societal, technological, scientific and environmental changes bring benefits but also new risks, including:
 - Digitalization, the use of robots at the workplace, further increase in teleworking and working from home
 - Green transition, incl. adaptation to climate change

EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work

- Comprehensive consultative process involving stakeholders, citizens and EU institutions:
 - **Open Public Consultation:** completed on 1 March 2021 (results to be presented in a SWD accompanying the Communication)
 - **ACSH** Opinion, adopted on 4 June 2019
 - **SLIC** Opinion, adopted on 21 October 2020
 - **Council** Conclusions adopted under **RO, FI** and **HR PCY** + ongoing Council Conclusions on Mainstreaming Ageing in Public Policies
 - **European Parliament** Hearing on the Future EU OSH Strategic Framework, held on 18 March 2021
- **Ongoing External Study** with a deadline of May 2021
- **Adoption of the EU OSH SF planned in June 2021**

Thank you



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