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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

Feedback from the HSC open meeting breakout sessions

A Paper by Rob Olsen

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Cleared by Susan Mawer on 28 October 2004

Issue

1. Feedback from the 12 October 2004 Commission open meeting breakout/discussion sessions.

Timing

2. Routine

Recommendation

3. That the Commission note the points raised in each of the three breakout sessions (see Annexes A, B and C):
 - Annex A – Implementation of EU Directives
 - Annex B – Our role in public protection
 - Annex C – Our interventions strategy and working with other regulators
4. That the Commission note the summary of the Q&A session that followed the HSC open meeting on 12 October 2004 attached at Annex D.

Background

5. The comments have been anonymised for publication on the HSE website.

6. Within HSE material gained from these sessions is also being utilised as follows:

- CEPS2, the HSWA Framework and Enforcement Policy team, will use the information gained from the breakout session that addressed public protection to help inform their consultation on HSE's role regarding public safety issues. This is an early deliverable of the strategy;
- A public consultation is currently underway regarding our interventions strategy, entitled '[Regulation and recognition – towards good performance in health and safety](#)'. A version of the relevant breakout session notes with attributed comments is being fed into the consultation process.
- HSE will also consider how to improve stakeholders knowledge of the EU directive negotiating process; and will endeavour to ensure stakeholders views are taken into consideration as early in the process as possible. However, under article 138 of the EU Treaty, the European Commission now consults the European Social Partners before tabling any new proposal on occupational health and safety. The social partners can then decide to deal with the issue through negotiations at EU level, the conclusions of which can result in either a voluntary agreement or a recommendation for new EU legislation. Through this process, which may also need wider promotion, stakeholders, by working through the CBI, TUC and CEEP UK, have the opportunity to shape EU proposals from the start - far earlier than HSE can.

7. People attending the breakout sessions represented unions, large employers (specific companies and employers organisations), small employers (specific companies and employers organisations), health and safety organisations, interest/campaigning groups, local authority organisations, members of the public and others. The balance of who attended each session was not recorded.

Presentation

8. The attached versions of the feedback from the breakout sessions will be made publicly available on the HSE website as will the notes from the Q&A session.
9. Additionally, the speeches given by Jane Kennedy and Alan Johnson will be added to the website.
10. The items mentioned in paragraphs 8 and 9 should be on the website by the end of November 2004.

Costs and Benefits

11. N/A

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

12. There are no direct costs and the resource implications for HSE of including the information as part of the relevant consultation processes should be minimal.

Environmental Implications

13. N/A

Other Implications

14. N/A

Action

15. To note recommendations in paragraphs 3 and 4.