



The importance of the NEPSI Social Dialogue Agreement in the context of the amendment of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive

Ten years ago, a diverse group of industries and their social partners signed the Social Dialogue "Agreement on Workers' Health Protection Through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products Containing it". Together, the 15 signatories formed NEPSI, the European Network on Silica, to implement effective protection measures through good practices and closely monitor the application of the Agreement over the years. This is the first European multi-sectoral agreement.

NEPSI social partners acknowledge the proposal to include in Annex I of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive (2004/37/EC) the "work involving exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust generated by a work process" and to establish in Annex III a binding occupational limit value for respirable crystalline silica dust at 0.1 mg/m³ as an important, feasible and proportionate step. The proposed value reflects the opinion of the tri partite Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work.

Recital 6 of the Commission proposal acknowledges the role of NEPSI Good Practices as a valuable instrument to complement the regulatory requirements and to support their effective implementation. In this context, NEPSI social partners confirm their desire to continue working together for enhanced workers' health protection and to ensure that the NEPSI Agreement continues to have a key role to play in facilitating compliance with the proposed regulatory measures and actual implementation on the ground. The NEPSI Agreement is always open for new signatories.

As Commissioner Marianne Thyssen highlighted on the tenth anniversary of the Agreement: ***"Setting limit values through EU legislation is instrumental for protection of workers' health. But it is the quality of implementation and enforcement on the ground [...] that will determine whether lives are saved. That is where we see the true value of the bottom-up approach, which has driven the success of NEPSI"***.

NEPSI social partners count on the support of the European Parliament to maintain and continue to develop this highly effective Social Dialogue Agreement.





Signed on behalf of:

- BIBM – The International Bureau for Precast Concrete
- CAEF – European Foundry Association
- CEEMET - European employers' organisation of the metal, engineering and technology-based industries
- CEMBUREAU – The European Cement Association
- Cerame-Unie - The European Ceramic Industry Association
- EMO – European Mortar Organization
- EURIMA - -The European Insulation Manufacturers Association
- EUROMINES – The European Association of Mining Industries
- EUROROC - European Federation of Natural Stone Industries
- EXCA – The European Expanded Clay Association
- ECSPA – European Calcium Silicate Producers Association (voluntary)
- FEVE – The European Container Glass Federation
- GlassFibreEurope – The European Glass Fibre Producers Association
- GLASS FOR EUROPE – The trade association for Europe's manufacturers of building, automotive and transport glass
- IMA-Europe – The European Industrial Minerals Association
- UEPG – European Aggregates Association
- industriAll – European Trade Union



I secretariat – c/o IMA-Europe, rue des deux églises 26, 1000 Brussels, +32 2 210 44 10, f.lumen@ima-europe.eu