



Press release
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Rumanian social partners call for the inclusion of Small companies under the collective bargaining agreement during a seminar on accident reduction in the furniture sector organized by the UEA and EFBWW.

On September 4th 2009 during the furniture fair in Bucharest, the UEA, the European Furniture Manufacturers Federation and EFBWW, the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers organized a seminar on best practices in accident reduction in the furniture industry. The event was organized in co-operation with the APMR and with financial support of the DG social Affairs of the European Commission.

Mrs. Sereny, president of Apmr welcomed the participants and Mr. De Turck of UEA presented the project which was a continuation of earlier activities of the EU social partners in the furniture sector to reduce the number of accidents in the furniture sector all over Europe. After a presentation of the accident frequency and causes in the EU by Mr. Kimtsaris of the UEA, Mr. Oltaneu, chief inspector of the labor inspection of Rumania presented the situation of accidents in Rumania where an average of 4 deadly accidents take place in the sector every year. He also gave an overview of the legislation and the initiatives of the Rumanian government to improve the situation.

The efforts and work of an individual company to reduce the accidents in the factories (Fournier in France) were presented as a best practice by Mr. De Turck of the UEA. Mr. Mason presented the efforts that can be made by a trade federation (BFM, British Furniture Manufacturers) to assist its companies in their efforts to improve the health and safety. Mr. Van Der Veer of FNV bouw, the Dutch workers organization in the furniture industry presented a project "kijk uit wat je doet" watch out what you are doing, in which workers are trained in the correct use of woodworking machinery through the examples shown in videos.

During the discussion Mr. Badica, president of the trade unions of Rumania regretted that companies with less than 20 employees escaped the collective bargaining agreements on health and safety as well as the government control.

The participants concluded that initiatives such as those presented were extremely necessary and that specifically the awareness of the risk of accidents should be increased.

To support the work, a brochures describing a number of best practices in reducing accidents in the furniture sector in Rumanian was published and will be distributed among companies and workers.

For more information contact the UEA secretariat secretariat@uea.be