



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Activity report
Safety and Health Commission for the Mining
and Other Extractive Industries
1996

Approved on 5 May 1997

(presented by the Commission)

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1. DESCRIPTION OF THE SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMISSION

1.1 Origins, responsibilities, terms of reference

Institutionalised cooperation on safety in the extractive industries within the European Union dates from the severe mine fire on 8 August 1956 at the Bois du Cazier Colliery in Marcinelle (Belgium), in which 262 miners from various European countries were killed. In view of the scale of the disaster, the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community immediately called a conference on safety in coal mines, which was attended by representatives of governments, employers and workers. The positive outcome led the Council of Ministers to decide on 6 September 1956 and 10 May 1957 to continue to work together in safety matters and to set up the Mines Safety Commission for the coal-mining industry. Its terms of reference and rules of procedure were approved on 9 July 1957 and its responsibilities were extended to include health protection and the whole of the extractive industries sector by the Council Decisions of 11 March 1965 and 27 June 1974 (see Annex A). The Mines Safety Commission has since been officially known as the Safety and Health Commission for the Mining and Other Extractive Industries (abbreviated as "Safety and Health Commission" or "SHCMOEF"). Its main tasks are to monitor developments in safety and health in the extractive industries, make proposals to the governments of the Member States for practical improvements in workplace conditions and promote the exchange of relevant information (see Annex A).

1.2 Structure, methods of work

Each Member State may send four representatives, of whom two represent the government, one the employers and one the workers. The Safety and Health Commission was thus the first European body not composed solely of government representatives. Within limits, advisors may also be appointed.

The government representatives on the Safety and Health Commission form a Restricted Committee, whose task is to maintain permanent contact among the governments of the Member States and between the governments and the Safety and Health Commission and to prepare the work of the Safety and Health Commission. The Restricted Committee is also responsible for adapting to technical progress the annexes to Directive 82/130/EEC.

As a general rule, technical questions are dealt with by tripartite working groups. In the past, there were as many as 20 Working Parties but, for reasons of efficiency and because of the administrative and financial constraints, these have been reduced to five Committees: Underground Workings, Surface Workings, Borehole Operations, Health Protection and Human Factors, which are chaired by members of the Restricted Committee. It has also proved useful to have specific technical questions dealt with by small ad hoc groups of experts.

1.3 Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Safety and Health Commission, the Restricted Committee, the specialised Committees and the ad hoc groups is provided by the Commission and forms part of Directorate-General V (V/F/4).

1.4 Annual report

Since the working methods of the Safety and Health Commission and the situation in the Secretariat have stabilised, it has been possible to resume the production of an annual report after a gap of several years. In this period, the Safety and Health Commission's activities consisted mainly in drawing conclusions from mine accidents (e.g. at the Simon Colliery, Doc. No 5147/89) and assisting the Commission in the preparation of directives (in particular Directives 92/91/EEC and 92/104/EEC).

The Safety and Health Commission adopted this report at its meeting on 5 May 1997.

2. THE WORK OF THE SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMISSION IN 1996

2.1 Meetings, workshops

The Safety and Health Commission met twice during the report period (on 8 March and 6 November 1996), with meetings of the Restricted Committee on the previous day. The Committees held seven meetings in all. As far as was possible, ad hoc groups met to prepare the work of the Committees. Two workshops, each attended by about 150 participants, were held on topics of current interest in the surface and underground sectors.

2.2 Exchange of views on particular occurrences

An incident at Thoresby Colliery in the United Kingdom was discussed in detail. On 12 October 1995, an outburst of mineral associated with gas, water and oil occurred in a development heading, causing the death of one miner. The incident occurred as the drivage was approaching a geological disturbance within a wider shatter zone in the immediate vicinity of an oil field.

In the light of a report by a representative of the competent national authorities (Doc. No 5630/96) and subsequent detailed discussion in the Safety and Health Commission, it would appear that the outburst could not have been predicted on the basis of previous experience. Since outburst precautions are prescribed by law and relevant research has begun in the United Kingdom, the Committee on Underground Workings will not deal with the incident as a whole but only with specific aspects, especially since it is rare for coal to be mined in the immediate vicinity of an oil field.

2.3 Proposals and recommendations

In the course of the report year, the Safety and Health Commission adopted various proposals and recommendations to the Member States for improving the safety and health protection of workers. These pertain to various subject areas and were prepared by the competent Committees.

2.3.1 Principles of strata control and support in underground workings of the mineral-extractive industries

The Safety and Health Commission looked closely at this question following two deep mining accidents, which had caused several fatalities. Doc. No 486/95, which had been

approved the previous year, contained general considerations and specific recommendations on strata control and support for underground workings of coal and other stratified minerals. In the reference year, it was supplemented by Doc. No 1189/1/95, which contains proposals and recommendations for other underground mineral workings.

2.3.2 Accident statistics for the European offshore oil and gas industry

A report with a view to recommendations (Doc. No 5908/4/94) describes the efforts made and difficulties encountered in producing comparable occupational accident and illness statistics within the European Union. Seven comprehensive accident causation categories and ten type-of-injury categories were identified for the offshore oil and gas industry. It is recommended that the Member States use the principles of the above document as a model for accident reporting to the Safety and Health Commission.

2.3.3 Human factors affecting reliability and their role in risk prevention

Doc. No 5324/4/96 investigates the part played by human factors in risk analysis and prevention and sets out proposals for the improvement of occupational safety and health. The discussion and recommendations are based on the Framework Directive 89/391/EEC and the two individual directives on the extractive industries, Directives 92/91/EEC and 92/104/EEC, and on European research into the socio-technical man-machine system and the associated concept of reliability. The proposals set out in the document seek to indicate how the requirements of the above Community directives can be satisfied and a genuine safety and health culture developed in industry.

2.4 Reports

Two reports on important fire and explosion prevention issues in the offshore and underground mining sectors were drafted in the competent Committees and approved by the Safety and Health Commission.

2.4.1 Piper Alpha accident

Doc. No 302/3/95 contains a description of the course of events during the accident on the Piper Alpha production platform, together with the findings and recommendations from the United Kingdom investigations, the offshore industry's reaction and the work undertaken by the Safety and Health Commission and other international bodies. The conclusions drawn from the accident are leading to further development of the offshore safety regime.

2.4.2 Explosion protection workshop

The papers read, discussions and conclusions of the workshop held on 27 November 1995 are reported in Doc. No 1184/95. The purpose of this event was to determine whether knowledge and experience arising from recent explosion accidents make it necessary to update the basic document, Doc. No 5147/89 "Measures to reduce the explosion and fire risk in auxiliary-ventilated workings and to improve the protection of personnel in the event of explosions and fire in coal mines" (Simon Report). The workshop showed that changes and additions are needed in certain areas.

2.5 Organisation of workshops

Two workshops were held on topical subjects from the underground and surface sectors. They were primarily organised by the competent Committees.

2.5.1 Safety in quarries - risk assessment

The workshop took place in Gubbio (Italy) on 21-22 June 1996, during the Italian Presidency. It allowed an exchange of views on risk determination and assessment in quarries as required by the Community Directives 89/391/EEC and 92/104/EEC. Various delegations described how they comply or intend to comply with the European requirements. Particular attention was paid to the situation in small and medium-sized firms. Simplicity of implementation was emphasised in the discussion. The event was combined with site visits.

2.5.2 Control of hazards caused by noxious substances resulting from the use of diesel engines and blasting operations underground

The workshop was held on 25-26 September 1996 in Luxembourg and centred on the health protection of workers in underground mine workings. The legislative, medical and technical aspects of the risks posed by diesel engine emissions and shotfiring fumes were discussed. One point of interest was the proposal for a Community directive on the use of diesel engines in non-road mobile machinery. In addition to the papers from the mining industry, an account was given of experience and trends in tunnelling. It emerged from the papers and discussions that the legal and technical options currently available are contributing to a substantial reduction in pollution in underground mining and tunnelling. Current and foreseeable developments give grounds for expecting further improvements in workplace conditions.

2.6 Community directives

In 1996, as in other years, the Safety and Health Commission was involved in preparing and advising on Community directives or draft directives and in monitoring their transposal. The instruments in question were either specific to the extractive industries or had important implications for them.

2.6.1 Transposal

Transposal of Directives 92/91/EEC and 92/104/EEC on requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers in drilling operations and in surface and underground mineral workings were closely scrutinised. Discussion between the delegations helped to clarify various questions and to eliminate or reduce problems. At the end of the report year, the Commission had received notifications indicating that both Directives had to a large extent been transposed into national law, although notifications from four Member States were outstanding in respect of each Directive. Preparatory work is, however, well advanced in these countries and national regulations will thus be in place shortly.

2.6.2 Preparatory work

Work began at the Safety and Health Commission on drafting a Commission Directive adapting to technical progress Council Directive 82/130/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres in mines susceptible to firedamp. The content of the harmonised technical standards has to be updated because of the developments which have taken place. This is the task of the Restricted Committee.

2.6.3 Opinion

In the report year, the Safety and Health Commission considered the draft prepared by Directorate-General XI for a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the measures to be taken against the emission of gaseous and particulate pollutants from internal combustion engines to be installed in non-road mobile machinery (COM (95) 350 final). This Directive will also apply to surface and underground workings of the extractive industries. It proved possible to allay concern within the Safety and Health Commission that EU legislation governing the design of engines would in future prevent the imposition of worker protection requirements for their use. Joint efforts by the delegations led to an addition to the proposal for a directive. A new provision has been included to ensure that the Directive does not curtail Member States' right to lay down, in accordance with the Treaty, such requirements as they think necessary to safeguard workers when mobile machinery and plant is used. Another important point clarified was that the Directive would apply only to new diesel engines.

2.7 Cooperation with other bodies

The Safety and Health Commission cooperates or is in contact with a number of other organisations at European and international level, and in particular with the following institutions.

2.7.1 European standardisation bodies

As a primarily technical body, the Safety and Health Commission has to work with the European standardisation bodies. Contact is maintained with the CEN as regards machinery and equipment for the extractive industries. The CEN is also to produce a European Standard incorporating the Safety and Health Commission's requirements for hydraulic fluids for power transmission. A full exchange of information with the Safety and Health Commission is regarded as essential to preparations for the standard on explosion prevention and protection in mines in order to avoid departures from the pertinent directives. Close liaison with CENELEC is also necessary, if only because the Restricted Committee is responsible for adapting to technical progress the annexes to Directive 82/130/EEC on electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres in mines.

2.7.2 International Labour Organisation

There are long-established and close links between the International Labour Organisation and the Safety and Health Commission, as reflected in the fact that an observer from the ILO regularly attends Safety and Health Commission meetings. Relations currently centre on Convention 176 concerning safety and health in mines and the corresponding

Recommendation 183. The Convention and Recommendation were adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation on 22 June 1995. Many of the requirements contained in the Convention are derived from Directive 92/104/EEC. The Safety and Health Commission will monitor ratification of the Convention, for which preparations are currently being made by the Member States.

2.7.3 Advisory Committee

For some time, observers from the Safety and Health Commission have attended meetings of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work and, conversely, representatives of the Advisory Committee are invited to meetings of the Safety and Health Commission. It is hoped that this will improve the two-way flow of information. Experience to date indicates that the two bodies do have points in common, but it is becoming increasingly clear that they are different in character. The Safety and Health Commission is primarily a technical body concerned with the specific problems of safety and health protection in the extractive industries. Its main focus is on practical technical matters. The Advisory Committee, on the other hand, can be described as a forum for discussion, mainly of fundamental questions of occupational safety and health protection but also of technical details in this area.

2.8 Improvement of the organisation, operation and image of the Safety and Health Commission

In order to make its activities even more effective than in the past while working within the administrative and financial constraints applying, the Safety and Health Commission has for some time been seeking to improve its organisation, operation and, as an accessory consideration, its image. The thrust of the proposals is that the Restricted Committee should act as a steering body for the five working Committees, that the Committees' work should be focused on priority projects and be carried out to a large extent without assistance from the Secretariat and that the membership of ad hoc groups should be limited and should depend on the subject being dealt with. It is proposed to issue information bulletins on meetings of the Safety and Health Commission and special events (cf. Doc. No 1173/2/95).

2.9 Work programme

A work programme was drawn up for 1997 and corresponding remits issued to the Committees. Work already in hand on certain important areas will continue and new issues of current interest in occupational safety and health improvement will be addressed. Salient points in the work programme are: risk determination in small and medium-sized firms for the purposes of the safety and health document, escape from underground mines, mutual recognition of qualifications and the relationship between training and safety. Two workshops are planned: on borehole operations and on hazards associated with the use of free-steered vehicles above and below ground.

3. THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEES

3.1 Committee on Underground Workings

3.1.1 Meetings

The Committee on Underground Workings met twice in 1996: on 18 April and 5 June. Ad hoc meetings of experts on rescue arrangements and mine ventilation were also held.

3.1.2 Document on strata control and support

The Committee continued its work on revising the remaining section of the proposals and recommendations to the Member States on principles of strata control and support in underground workings of the mineral-extractive industries. This section (Part IV) deals with underground workings other than those of coal and other stratified minerals. The text was considerably amended and was approved by the Committee. It was finally adopted by the Safety and Health Commission at its meeting on 6 November 1996.

3.1.3 Explosion protection workshop

Doc. No 1184/95 was produced following the explosion protection workshop organised by the Safety and Health Commission in November 1995. It contains the papers read, an account of the discussions and the chairman's conclusions. The document was discussed by the Committee on Underground Workings and was adopted by the Safety and Health Commission at its meeting on 6 November 1996.

3.1.4 Additions to Doc. No 5147/89

In the light of the explosion protection workshop, proposals were made for changes to Doc. No 5147/89 (Measures to reduce the explosion and fire risk in auxiliary-ventilated workings and to improve the protection of personnel in the event of explosions and fire in coal mines), which had been produced by the Safety and Health Commission after the firedamp and dust explosion in 1985 at Simon Colliery in France, where 22 miners were killed. These proposals were discussed and it was agreed to place before the Safety and Health Commission a supplement to Doc. No 5147/89 which addressed the aspects identified by the workshop. Doc. No 5346/96 was therefore produced by mine ventilation experts. It deals with detection and control of firedamp in deep/extended cut methods and in inaccessible cavities, dust deposition in ventilation ducting, the risk of ignition by rock-on-rock friction and ventilation problems at the face/gate junction.

3.1.5 Self-rescuers and refuge chambers

On 25 June 1996, mine rescue experts met to compare notes and acquaint themselves with the latest developments in the use of self-rescuers and refuge chambers. The rescue aspects of an oil, gas and water outburst which occurred in October 1995 at Thoresby Colliery in the United Kingdom were also discussed. At this meeting, work began on producing an information paper on escape from underground workings in an emergency. An initial draft produced by the United Kingdom delegation is under discussion.

3.1.6 Use of nitrogen to control spontaneous combustion

The Committee received full information from the French delegation on two cases of spontaneous combustion which occurred in the goaf of a longwall face in the Lorraine Area, and on the use of nitrogen to fight the fires. Two miners suffered burns when the second of these fires provoked a firedamp ignition.

3.2 Committee on Surface Workings

3.2.1 Events organised

The Committee on Surface Workings was responsible for organising the workshop on safety in quarries and risk assessment in Gubbio (Italy) on 21-22 June 1996. On 5 December 1996, a plenary meeting of the Committee was held and the draft report of the workshop proceedings (Doc. No 5619/96) was given a first reading.

3.2.2 Main focus of work

In the report year, the Committee was primarily concerned with risk determination and assessment in quarries, especially in small and medium-sized firms. The work is based on the Framework Directive 89/391/EEC and the individual directive on surface and underground mineral-extracting industries, Directive 92/104/EEC. The first of these requires evaluation of the workplace risks and the second requires risks to be determined and assessed and the measures to protect workers described as part of the safety and health document. It is generally recognised that the Community directives have contributed to improving safety and health protection, but some difficulties are encountered in implementing them.

3.2.3 Workshop

The purpose of the workshop, which was held during the Italian Presidency, was to allow a comparison of experience of risk determination and assessment in quarries in accordance with the Community directives. The German and Italian delegations, in particular, described how they comply or intend to comply with the European requirements. The Framework Directive 89/391/EEC and the individual Directives 92/91/EEC and 92/104/EEC were incorporated into German mining law by the Order of 23 October 1996. The "Employers' Guide" (Unternehmermodell) provided by the German Steinbruchs-Berufsgenossenschaft helps employers to discharge their obligations.

In Italy, various steps are being taken to put Directive 92/104/EEC into practice. An important aspect is the production of guidance for assessment of occupational safety and health risks. The Spanish delegation reported on the situation in Spanish collieries and the risks arising there. Simplicity of implementation was stressed in the discussion.

Site visits were arranged in conjunction with the workshop.

3.3 Committee on Borehole Operations

3.3.1 Meetings, areas of work

The Committee on Borehole Operations met twice early in 1996 to complete the report on the Piper Alpha accident (Doc. No 302/3/95) and the report and proposals on accident statistics for the European offshore oil and gas industry (Doc. No 5908/4/94).

3.3.2 Piper Alpha accident

Under its terms of reference, the Safety and Health Commission is required to evaluate and produce a report on major accidents in the mining and other extractive industries. Since it was deeply involved in post-Piper Alpha developments, and in particular with the preparation of a directive on the extractive industries, it was decided that the report should be more general than usual. It therefore summarises the facts concerning the disaster and the subsequent findings and recommendations of the UK Department of Energy Technical Investigation and Lord Cullen's Public Inquiry. It discusses the industry's reaction to the disaster, the work undertaken by the Safety and Health Commission and other international bodies and post-Piper Alpha developments in the offshore safety regime in the UK and other Member States.

3.3.3 Accident statistics

The Safety and Health Commission is also required under its terms of reference to help the European Commission to devise a method for compiling comparable statistics on accidents and damage to health. The Committee's contribution is collect and assess accident statistics and relevant information on serious accidents in the oil and gas industry. In 1983, the Safety and Health Commission approved two pertinent recommendations to the Member States for the offshore and onshore sectors. However, the Committee found that no accident statistics had been collected and assessed over a period of several years and that the 1983 recommendation on the format for publishing accident statistics was not in practice followed by all Member States.

The Committee therefore asked the Member States to submit their statistics for the years 1991-1994 in whatever format was available. The Committee succeeded in establishing seven comprehensive accident causation categories and ten type-of-injury categories. Since the Member States applied different criteria, frequency rates had to be assessed for each country individually. Accident frequencies proved to be highest in the first three categories: "slipping/falling of person", "falling objects/hit by objects" and "handling objects, tools, machinery, etc."

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- For the time being, Member States should not submit offshore accident statistics in the form set out in 1983 in Doc. No 2897/6/81.
- In the meantime, Doc. No 5908/4/94 should be used as the format for reporting accidents to the Safety and Health Commission.
- Cooperation with Eurostat and the ILO should be intensified.

- The system should be improved by the development of an agreed basis for reporting accident rates (preferably based on the rate per 100 000 hours worked).

The Safety and Health Commission accepted these recommendations. The 1997 work programme provides for the Committee to continue work on accident statistics and also to address the problems of mutual recognition of qualifications (in the context of staff rotation on North Sea oil rigs).

3.4 Committee on Health Protection

3.4.1 Event organised, main focus of work

The Committee on Health Protection presented current topics from its area of activity at a workshop held in Luxembourg on 25-26 September 1996. The main emphasis of its work lay on the prevention or reduction of health hazards in underground workings of the extractive industries.

3.4.2 Workshop

The workshop on "Control of hazards caused by noxious substances resulting from the use of diesel engines and blasting operations underground" was divided into three parts:

- Legal framework for the use of diesel engines underground and noxious emissions caused by blasting operations
- Measurement of diesel engine emissions and medical aspects
- Measures to reduce pollution.

Two papers dealt with legislative aspects from the point of view of the European Commission. Pollution by diesel engines was discussed in the broad context of European environmental protection, an important element being the proposal for a Community directive on control of gaseous and particulate pollutants from diesel engines in non-road mobile machinery. The efforts made in the field of industrial medicine were illustrated with reference to the Community action programme 1996-2000. A further paper reported on the establishment of exposure limits in Sweden.

Part II dealt with experience and research findings from Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Sweden. Special methods are required for sampling and analysis of emissions from diesel engines used below ground. There is a substantial corpus of research on possible health risks from diesel exhaust and shotfiring fumes. Industrial medicine in the context of noxious gases and particulates was also covered. The results of epidemiological studies in the mining industry of one Member State were described.

Part III provided an opportunity to describe and discuss field and laboratory experience of diesel exhaust abatement below ground and corresponding developments. A report on the current state of the art and prospective developments in tunnelling supplemented the discussion of underground mining conditions. There were contributions from Germany, Switzerland, France and the United Kingdom. The papers and discussion indicated that present technology allows a substantial reduction in pollution in underground mining and

tunnelling. Current and foreseeable developments give grounds for hoping that workplace conditions will improve further.

The report on the proceedings of this workshop is being prepared as Doc. No 5980/96.

3.5 Committee on Human Factors

3.5.1 Meetings

The Committee on Human Factors met in plenary session on 14 May and 24 September 1996. An ad hoc group met on 27 June and 3 September 1996.

3.5.2 Main focus of work

In the report year, the Committee concentrated on the role of human factors in risk analysis and prevention with the aim of submitting proposals for improvement of safety and health at work, primarily in the extractive industries. The results of this work are recorded in Doc. No 5324/4/96.

3.5.3 Report and proposals on the role of human factors in risk prevention

The Committee based its work and proposals on the Framework Directive 89/391/EEC and the two individual directives specifically concerned with the extractive industries, Directives 92/91/EEC and 92/104/EEC. These stress the importance of human factors for further progress in safety and health protection at work. The Committee links the aims of the above Directives with the knowledge and experience accumulated in the field of human factors and advocates a global approach.

The document describes how human factors can be taken into account in risk identification and assessment. Various methods of diagnosis can be used, such as analysis of planned or existing work situations, incident and accident analysis or error analysis. The main systemic analysis methods for reliability assessment are explained and summarised in an annex, indicating the advantages and disadvantages.

One of the main features of the document produced is that it shows the important part played by human factors in preventive action and indicates how they can be taken into account in operational practice. Relevant factors are: workstation and production system ergonomics; aptitudes and career development; worker information and training; consultation and participation of workers; management.

The Committee considers that the safety and health document required by the Community Directives 92/91/EEC and 92/104/EEC provides a good basis for considering human factors. The safety and health management system called for in these Directives encourages the involvement of all levels of management and the participation of workers. Overall, the measures described and proposed will foster the emergence of a true company health and safety culture.

The Safety and Health Commission adopted Doc. No 5324/4/96 at its meeting on 6 November 1996.

4. ANNEXES

- A: EXTRACTS FROM THE COUNCIL DECISIONS OF 27 JUNE 1974
 AND 9 JULY 1957**
- B: MAJOR SHCMOEI DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE ANNUAL
 REPORT**
- C: LIST OF HEADS OF DELEGATION, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND
 THE SECRETARIAT**

ANNEX 66

COUNCIL DECISION

of 27 June 1974

on the extension of the responsibilities of the Mines Safety and Health Commission to all mineral-extracting industries

(Excerpt)

(74/326/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS :

Article 1

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 145 thereof :

1. Preventive action against risks of accident and occupational risks to the safety and health of workers in all mineral-extracting industries except simple excavation, excluding the protection of the health of workers against the dangers arising from ionizing radiations which is subject to special regulations pursuant to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community shall be the responsibility of the Mines Safety and Health Commission within the terms of reference laid down by Decision of 11 March 1965 of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the special Council of Ministers.

Whereas the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the special Council of Ministers, by Decision of 9 and 10 May 1957, set up a Mines Safety and Health Commission whose terms of reference as laid down by Decision of 9 July 1957⁽¹⁾ of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Special Council of Ministers, amended by Decision of 11 March 1965⁽²⁾ are to follow developments in safety and in the prevention of occupational risks to health in coal mines and to draw up proposals appropriate for the improvement of safety and health in coal mines :

⁽¹⁾ OJ No 28. 31. 8. 1957, p. 487/57.

⁽²⁾ OJ No 46. 22. 3. 1965, p. 698/65.

DECISION

of 9 July 1957

concerning the terms of reference of SHCMOEI

1. The Commission shall follow developments regarding safety in coalmines, including those regarding the safety regulations instituted by the public authorities, and assemble the necessary information concerning progress and practical results obtained, more especially in the matter of accident prevention.

To secure the necessary information, the Commission shall apply to the Governments concerned.

The Commission shall evaluate the information in its possession and submit to the Governments proposals for the improvement of safety in coalmines.

2. The Commission shall help the High Authority to work out a method of compiling intercomparable accident statistics.

3. The Commission shall ensure the prompt forwarding to the quarters directly concerned (including in particular mines inspectorates and employers' and workers' associations) of relevant information assembled by it.

4. The Commission shall ascertain, by regular contact with the Governments, what action is being taken to implement the proposals of the Conference on Safety in Coalmines, and such proposals as it may itself draw up.

5. The Commission shall propose such study and research as it deems most indicated for the improvement of safety, with notes as to the way in which these can best be effected.

6. The Commission shall facilitate the exchange of information and experience among persons responsible for safety matters, and propose appropriate measures for this purpose (e.g. organization of study sessions, establishment of documentation services).

7. The Commission shall propose appropriate measures for ensuring the necessary liaison among the rescue services in the Community countries.

8. The Commission shall submit annually to the Council of Ministers and the High Authority a Report on its activities and on developments regarding safety in coalmines in the different member States. In this connection, it shall in particular examine the statistics compiled on accidents and incidents in coalmines.

Major SHCMOEI documents relevant to the annual report

Document Title	Document No
Thoresby Colliery: Fatal accident to Mr A. Fielding following an outburst of mineral associated with heavy emissions of gas, water and oil, 12 October 1995	5630/96
Proposals and recommendations to Member States on principles of strata control and support in underground workings of the mineral-extractive industries	
- Parts I to III	486/95
- Part IV	1189/1/95
Report and proposals on European offshore oil and gas industry accident statistics	5908/3/94
Safety and Health at Work: human factors affecting reliability and their role in risk prevention	5324/4/96
Report on the Piper Alpha accident	302/3/95
Explosion protection workshop of 27 November 1995 - summary	1184/95
Measures to reduce the explosion and fire risk in auxiliary-ventilated workings and to improve the protection of personnel in the event of explosions and fire in coal mines	5147/89
Proposals for improving the organisation, operation and image of the Safety and Health Commission	1173/2/95

List of heads of delegation

Member State	Head of delegation
Austria	Maier
Belgium	Rzonzef (until 1.11.96), Mainjot
Denmark	Noergaard
Finland	Reinikka
France	Bonneviale
Germany	Keusgen (until 30.4.96), Mager
Greece	Paitas
Ireland	Walsh
Italy	Retacchi
Luxembourg	Weber
Netherlands	van der Tuin
Portugal	da Silva Daniel
Spain	Ortiz Garces de Los Fayos (until 11.11.96), de Molina
Sweden	Andersson
United Kingdom	Mitchell

List of Committee chairmen

Committee	Chairman	Member State
Underground Workings	Mitchell	United Kingdom
Surface Workings	Retacchi	Italy
Borehole Operations	Noergaard	Denmark
Health Protection	de Retana (until 5.11.96)	Spain
	Cocude	France
Human Factors	Keusgen (until 5.11.96)	Germany
	Andersson	Sweden

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DOCUMENTS

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