

## **Health and safety at work = a major challenge for RC's** ***"Success is no accident"***

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The European Confederation of Agricultural, Rural, and Forestry Contractors (CEETTAR) attaches overriding importance to preventing accidents at work.

For CEETTAR an accident is one accident too many

### **It considers that:**

- Health and safety at work represent a substantial financial investment for agricultural service providers.
- Contractors make available to farmers and rural areas in general considerable resources and know-how for large farms, animal husbandry, forestry, and local authorities.
- Such activities are typically carried out with meticulous concern for good quality work, and for the health and safety of workers and their families.
- To establish a structure for maximising accident-prevention, studies should be carried out in several countries to examine their different insurance systems and methods for preventing accidents.

### **2. It notes that:**

The professional sector of ARC, the association of Agricultural and Rural Contractors', remains at risk.

Those employed in this sector have an overriding interest in preventing accidents.

### **3. Three initiatives were taken:**

- A thorough, comparative study was undertaken of German, Danish, and French insurance systems
- Existing best practices in accident prevention were collated, evaluated, and highlighted.
- Arrangements were made to spread the word about such practices in order to improve safety at work throughout the European Union.

#### **4. It is intended:**

- To highlight the experiences of the partners in this project by capitalising on best practices in the three countries involved.
- To promote innovative actions and spread them to ARC at European level.
- To enrich the health and safety *aquis communautaires*.
- To highlight the competencies of accident prevention specialists in risk-analysis and the encouragement of good practices.
- To participate in all activities aimed at raising professional competence among managers and workers in education, information, and behaviour, in order to set standards and improve safety at work.

#### **5. It was decided to:**

- Develop social dialogue in this sector at national level in every country, and at European level with the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT).
- In this way to give a boost to working groups organised by the European Commission's Employment and Social Affairs Directorate involved in social dialogue in this sector.

#### **Finally, CEETTAR appeals:**

- to the European Parliament,
- to the European Economic and Social Committee (ECSC)
- to the Directorates-General of Agriculture, and Employment and Social Affairs in the European Commission

#### **To involve agricultural contractors**

**in the many current debates and the many future challenges in European agriculture, and fully include them in the social policy and the economic prosperity of the Union, which is the *sine qua non* to approach as well and soon as possible the uncertainties and prepare the international commitments in the best conditions towards a broader Europe.**