



COPENHAGEN

Occupational health and safety and the role of the European Capitals' Trade Unions Conference in Athens – September 2010.

Copenhagen, the 3thrd of May 2010.

1. What are the OHS conditions in your capital region. Give a brief description.

OHS conditions in the Greater Copenhagen area are generally good. However, OHS conditions have been weakened through the last nine years due to a liberal/conservative government that have been deregulating the OHS legislation.

2. Problems with the implementation of OHS legislation.

The most critical problems regarding implementation of OHS legislation are related to the non regulated parts of the labor market – especially in relation to immigrant workers. Immigrant workers in Greater Copenhagen are mainly employed in the building and construction sector and in the restaurant and hotel industry. In these industries the number of organized workers is lower than in the rest of the lab our market, there are few shop stewards and employers do not always follow the OHS legislation.

3. Inspectorate on OHS and efficiency problems

The Danish inspectorate on OHS – “Arbejdstilsynet” – has been exposed to serious budget cuts through the past decade. Instead the government has created a fund for preventing OHS problems at Danish workplaces. Resources from the fund can only be applied for by companies.

4. Accidents at workplace and professional diseases.

In 2009 there were 44 deadly accidents at workplaces in Denmark. The transportation sector had most of these with 7 accidents in 2009. The number of total reported accidents at workplaces in Denmark was in 2009 42.561.

5. Sectoral approach of OHS. Which sectors are most exposed in your capital region

Interestingly the office sector is the sector most exposed to accidents in workplaces with 3500 reported accidents in Denmark in 2009. Sector number two is metal and machines with 2500 accidents. Sector number three is deconstruction of buildings with 2300 accidents.

6. Workers most exposed to poor OHS conditions.

Workers in the cleaning industry and in the slaughterhouse industry are the workers with the worst OHS conditions.

7. How the economic crisis affects OHS.

We have no obvious indications of how the economic crisis affects the OHS in Greater Copenhagen. However there is a clear tendency that the absence from work due to sickness has been falling since the beginning of the economic crisis. This could be a result of falling consumer demand, which has diminished the demand for productivity in the private sector – to the benefit of the workers.

8. Initiatives and actions of your organization on OHS issues

TUC Greater Copenhagen has in occasion of the international OHS day (the 28. of April) initiated a conference concerning the OHS legislation and a distribution of OHS materials at central traffic connections in Greater Copenhagen.

9. Perspectives of co-operation of the European Capitals Trade Unions on OHS, networking, common activities etc.

TUC Greater Copenhagen suggest that co-operation on OHS issues between the European Capitals Trade Unions concerns:

-  Co-operation in relation to the international OHS day (the 28. of April)

- Co-operation in relation to forthcoming OHS initiatives from the EU
- Co-operation in relation to developing common European Capitals Trade Unions projects on OHS issues based on funding from the EU.