



## **WORKINGonSAFETY.net**

Walter EICHENDORF

Hauptverband der gewerblichen Berufsgenossenschaften

Alte Heerstr. 111, D-53754 Sankt Augustin

WORKINGonSAFETY.net is an international network of people active in occupational health and safety. Its main purpose is the joint development of prevention strategies and related exchange of experience. Following a proposal by Danish and Swedish labour inspectorates, the network was founded in 2001 with financial support of the European Commission and in close co-ordination with ILO. WORKINGonSAFETY.net is exclusively dedicated to the prevention of occupational accidents and facilitates the exchange of experience between inspection services, science, politics, and the social partners. The European Commission funded the creation of the Internet-based communications platform and continues to support its maintenance via the European Agency in Bilbao. The English-language communications platform provides the best opportunities for an exchange of experience on a global level.

What is striking about WORKINGonSAFETY.net is its limitation to accident prevention. Occupational diseases and work-related health hazards are explicitly excluded. The reason for this focussing is that in several Scandinavian countries the number of occupational accidents has increased again over the past years. Experiences of inspection services in these countries have revealed that over the past years, increasingly more attention has been paid to so-called "soft factors" than on classic occupational safety.

WORKINGonSAFETY.net has developed at a surprisingly good pace not only throughout the European Union, but also way beyond, in Eastern Europe in particular. It is not restricted to internet communications, but also facilitates personal exchange of experience. In 2002, during the Danish EU Presidency, a first conference was held in Elsinore/Denmark, followed by a second one at the BG Academy in Dresden in 2004. A third conference is scheduled to take place in the Netherlands in 2006.