

# FORUM NEWS

## European Forum 2019



**Dear colleagues,**

Almost two months have already passed since the European Forum 2019 took place in Vilnius. I would like to take this opportunity to have a brief look back at the event. The European Forum 2019 was dedicated to the theme “Moving across borders: converging regulation of occupational safety and health guarantees and diverse cultures”. The first day was dedicated to two working groups (legislation and communication). The conference day was divided to two separate sessions followed by panel discussions.



© Sodra

### Editorial

European Forum 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ **1**

### Europe

Handover – the new European Commission takes office \_\_\_\_\_ **4**

### News from the members

Reorganisation of the Austrian Social Insurance System \_\_\_\_\_ **7**

Croatia: Educational activities within the project of promoting health and safety at work in clinical hospital center Zagreb \_\_\_\_\_ **11**

Italy: A “virtual repair shop” to reduce injuries in repairing motor vehicles \_\_\_\_\_ **12**

Germany: Safe cattle husbandry \_\_\_\_\_ **14**

### Ad personam

News from Sweden \_\_\_\_\_ **17**

Franco BETTONI, new President of Inail, Italy \_\_\_\_\_ **17**

Austria: Appointment of a new Director General and Deputy Directors General of the Austrian Workers’ Compensation Board (AUVA) \_\_\_\_\_ **18**

### Next conferences

Les Débats d’Eurogip: “Preventing occupational risks in the healthcare sector for the dependent elderly” \_\_\_\_\_ **19**

Next congress of the European Forum will be organised by the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV) \_\_\_\_\_ **20**

The final presentation about how to ensure the rightful place for the need to ensure occupational safety and health and related social guarantees in the hierarchy of wishes and needs of employers, employees and government by ignoring conflicts, confronting, making compromises or finding a solution, which would be beneficial to all parties.





The Conference showed that we need to invest the most in technology and human capital; we need to increase productivity and security at work places; we need to increase employee satisfaction and the attractiveness of our countries' labour markets; we need to reduce disparities within the European Union (especially in the area of occupational safety).

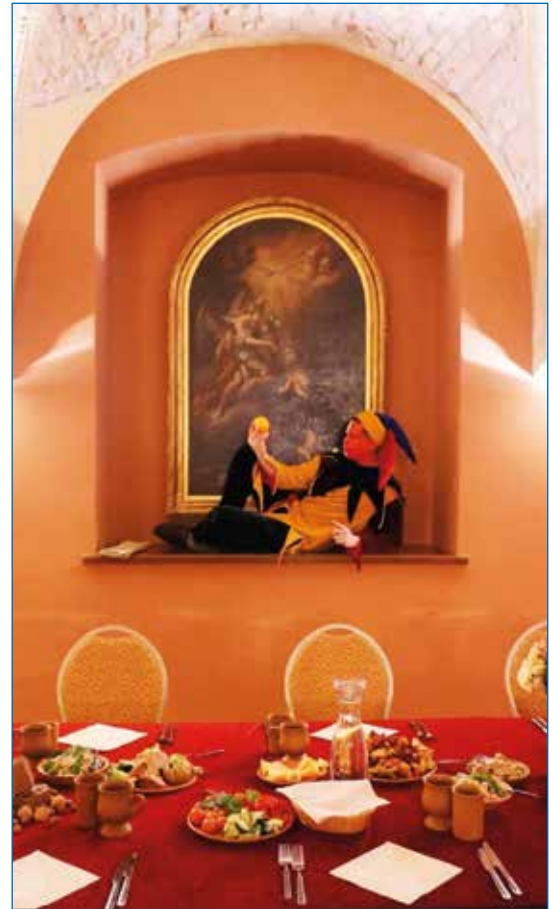
The conference day was followed by the gala evening in the Church heritage museum. Medieval times dinner with medieval joker show crowned the busy day of conference.

**After the General assembly and the CEO meeting it was time to say goodbye.**

Dear colleagues, it was a great honour and pleasure for us to organize the European Forum 2019 in Sodra. On behalf of the organizational committee, I would like to thank you very much for your active participation and for your interest in Sodra and Vilnius as well.

Now it is time to hand over the presidency to DGUV, wishing them success during their Presidency in 2020. ■

*Julita Varanauskien  
Director of Sodra  
European Forum 2019 Presidency*



# Handover – the new European Commission takes office

On 1 December 2019, with a delay of one month, the new Commission led by Ursula von der Leyen took office starting its five-year term. After the refusals of three proposed Commissioners, the European Parliament confirmed the new Commission on 27 November 2019. This gives reason for a review on the initiatives and achievements of the outgoing Commission in the field of social policy and an outlook on the plans of the new one.

## Look back on the outgoing Commission

Since taking office, the strengthening of the social dimension of Europe has been the focus of the Juncker-Commission seeking a “triple-A rating for Europe on social issues”. A key element in this respect is the European Pillar of Social Rights (the Pillar), jointly proclaimed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission at the Social Summit in Gothenburg in November 2017.

Aiming at an upwards convergence for better living and working conditions, the 20 principles enshrined in the Pillar should serve as a guidance to ensure that social rights are put into practice. Concerning occupational health and safety, it stipulates in principle 10 that workers have the right to a high level of protection of their health and safety at work and a working environment adapted to their professional needs, which enables them to prolong their participation in the labour market.

Since 2017, the outgoing Commission has launched 25 initiatives in the field of social policy, such as the Work-Life Balance Directive<sup>1</sup> introducing among others carers’ leave of five days per year and extending the right to flexible working arrangements to carers and working parents of children up to an age of eight years. The Directive entered into force on 1 August 2019. Member States now have three years to adopt the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with the Directive.

As a further concrete initiative to implement the Pillar, in March 2018 the Commission presented its “Social Fairness Package” in-

cluding the proposal for a Council Recommendation on access to social protection and the proposal for a Regulation establishing a European Labor Authority.

Based on principle 12 of the Pillar, the Commission submitted a proposal for a Council Recommendation to encourage Member States to ensure adequate access to social protection for all workers and self-employed. In November 2019, the Council formally adopted the Recommendation<sup>2</sup>, which stipulates a compulsory insurance of employees regarding the risks of unemployment, sickness and health care, maternity and equivalent benefits in the case of paternity, disability, old age and survivors’ benefits, as well as occupational accidents and occupational diseases. For self-employed, it is recommended to cover these risks “at least on a voluntary basis and where appropriate on a mandatory basis”. The Recommendation is a legally non-binding act aiming at stimulating national reforms. Despite its non-binding nature, the intention to “implement” it is clearly expressed in a set of provisions on the monitoring of measures to be taken by the Member States and the evaluation of their progress.

The European Labour Authority (ELA)<sup>3</sup> is another core part of the “Social Fairness Package” formally adopted by the Council in June 2019. Two years after the former Commission President Juncker announced it in its State of the Union Address 2017 the ELA started its work in October 2019 and is supposed to be fully operational at its seat in Bratislava in 2024. The ELA aims at providing citizens and employers with information about their rights and obligations related to employment or business activities in another

Member State, supporting Member States in cross-border enforcement of Union law and mediating disputes between national authorities. The legislator did not approve a shift from tasks and bodies of the Administrative Commission for the coordination of social security systems to the ELA as initially envisaged in the Commission's draft finally.

In addition, in the field of occupational safety the Juncker-Commission was active. In its Communication "Safer and Healthier Work for All – Modernisation of the EU Occupational Safety and Health Legislation and Policy"<sup>4</sup> the Commission proposed key actions in specific priorities. Among the technical amendments to some of the individual directives under the OSH framework Directive<sup>5</sup>, three amendments concerning the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive<sup>6</sup> were adopted introducing new binding exposure limits for carcinogens.

Apart from stepping up the fight against occupational cancer through legislative proposals and awareness-raising, e.g. via the 2018–2019 Healthy Workplaces Campaign of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work on dangerous substances, the Commission focused on helping businesses, in particular micro-enterprises and SMEs, to comply with occupational safety and health rules and on cooperating with Member States and social partners to update the OSH rules and refocus on ensuring better protection and enforcement on the ground.

The outgoing Commission proposed several initiatives to up-date the "social acquis" and adjust it to the challenges of changing conditions such as the digitalisation and the new forms of work. The new Commission has already announced that it intends to continue the work just as ambitiously.

## What to expect from the new Commission in the field of occupational health and safety

In her opening statement in the European Parliament in July 2019 and in her political guidelines for the next European Commis-

sion 2019 – 2024, the new Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, stated that she wants to bring the European Pillar of Social Rights to life and announced an Action Plan for its implementation. The new Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit, at his hearing in the European Parliament further explained that the Action Plan should cover the EU and Member States level. While the new Commission intends to take forward a number of initiatives that fall within remit of the Pillar such as looking into ways to improve the labour conditions of platform workers or ensuring the full implementation of the Work-Life Balance Directive, the Action Plan should also encourage Member States to take measures which will be monitored in the European Semester which is part the European Union's economic governance framework to coordinate the Member States economic policies and address economic challenges.

While there were no explicit references to OSH policy in von der Leyen's guidelines nor in her mission letter to the incoming Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Commissioner Schmit himself stressed at his hearing in the European Parliament that one of the areas he personally cares much about is health and safety at work. He announced to be ambitious in ensuring a high level of protection and by looking into possible ways forward for occupational safety and health beyond the strategic framework ending in 2020.

In this respect, he stressed that the EU stands ready to ensure high standards across all workplaces, including towards social partners, labour inspectorates and occupational safety and health authorities. In particular, it would be very important to tackle fatal accidents to send a strong signal. The new Commissioner declared that the policy tools to address key risks such as cancer, stress, mental health and musculo-skeletal disorders carefully needed to be explored.

Without showing detailed measures, however, the "commitments" made at the hearing in the European Parliament already provide some hints on possible future priorities, e.g. as regards work-related stress, musculo-skeletal disorders and chronic diseases. Commis-

sioner Schmit intends to work together with the social partners and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work in order to develop a serious prevention culture among employers and workers.

Specific attention will be given to the increasing number of people with mental health diseases at the workplace. Commissioner Schmit highlighted at his hearing that in this respect a strong prevention policy is necessary. This is also reflected in the Council conclusions on the Economy of Wellbeing of October 2019, which calls on the Commission to propose a Mental Health Strategy for the EU, considering cross-sectoral impacts of different policies on mental health.

Apart from preventive measures, Commissioner Schmit stressed the need to ensure a smooth return to work after all kinds of illnesses pointing out the importance for the individuals themselves and their families as well as for the companies and the society as a whole. He encouraged the use of the European Social Fund to help reintegrating people into active working life as fast as possible.

Additionally, he announced further measures and exposure limits against carcinogens at work. Besides the three already mentioned amendments of Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive, a fourth proposal is expected to be published by the new Commission in early 2020.

As a further focus, Commissioner Schmit stressed the need of reflections on occupational safety and health regarding the changing world of work. The Council in its conclusions on the changing world of work of June 2019 already emphasised the importance of identifying means to ensure the safety and health of workers performing new forms of work in places where the requisite conditions for the protection of workers could be outside the employer's control. The Commission with the assistance of the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work, representing national governments, trade unions and employers' organisations, is asked to continue modernising occupational safety and health policies in line with the changing world of work and to identify possible new policy pathways.

## Outlook

The social dimension of Europe will continue to be a priority for the Commission. The Commission's new President Ursula von der Leyen has already made this clear. An Action Plan to fully implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, the support for those in work to earn a decent living by proposing a legal instrument for a fair minimum wage, a European Unemployment Benefit Reinsurance Scheme, a European plan to fight cancer supporting Member States in improving cancer control and care; and a new anti-discrimination legislation are some of the key points envisaged in the area of social policy. In today's modern economy, Ursula von der Leyen wants to reconcile the "social" and the "market". Working on a new strategy 2021 -2027 to address effectively some of the increasing challenges such as work-related cancer, mental health and chronic diseases and the working conditions in new forms of work OSH policy will be one of the new Commission's main concerns. ■

*Stefani Wolfgraben*  
*Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung (DGUV)*  
*www.dguv.de*

1 Directive (EU) 2019/1158 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on work-life balance for parents and carers and repealing Council Directive 2010/18/EU.

2 Council Recommendation of 8 November 2019 on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed (2019/C 387/01).

3 Regulation (EU) 2019/1149 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 establishing a European Labour Authority, amending Regulations (EC) No 883/2004, (EU) No 492/2011, and (EU) 2016/589 and repealing Decision (EU) 2016/344.

4 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the Committee of the Regions "Safer and Healthier Work for All - Modernisation of the EU Occupational Safety and Health Legislation and Policy" of 10 January 2017, COM(2017) 12 final.

5 Council Directive 89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work

6 Directive 2004/37/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work (Sixth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Council Directive 89/391/EEC).

# Reorganisation of the Austrian Social Insurance System

**In December 2018, the Austrian National Council passed the so-called Social Insurance Organisation Act (SV-OG) and the Act on the Merging of Audit Organisations of the Financial and Social Administrations (ZPFSG): This was green light for the merging of 21 social insurance carriers into only five social insurance carriers under one umbrella association (instead of the current main association). An ambitious project, which is going to be implemented by January 1, 2020.**

According to the legislating authority, the aim is an efficient, modern and citizen-oriented social insurance system. The restructuring is intended to reduce the administrative costs of the 21 social insurance institutions still in existence until 31.12.2019 and to raise savings potential in order to ensure an even better provision than before with the funds released as a result.

The system of self-governance, which is enshrined in Austria's constitution, has also been threatened: On the one hand, the number of self-governing representatives and the self-governing committees was drastically reduced; on the other hand, the legal order was given to hand over many tasks, which had previously been assigned to self-government body to the office. At the same time, transitional committees were created in the social security committees as of April 1, 2019 to prepare for the merging process.

There will also be an expansion of the supervisory powers of the federal government: The supervisory authorities (above all the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection) can intervene in the decision-making process of the self-governing boards and prevent decisions by allowing the supervisory authorities to demand for the postponement of agenda items. For the first time, the insurance carriers and the Main Association must present a statement of account for each financial year. In any case, this must consist of an income statement and a closing balance sheet at the end of the year and has to be audited

by a sworn auditor. Furthermore, an annual report must be prepared and submitted to the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. The income statement and final balance sheet have so far been audited by a self-governing committee.

## The structural reform:

The previous nine regional health insurance funds (and five company's health insurance funds) will be merged to form the Austrian Health Insurance Fund. The employed persons previously insured with the regional health insurance funds are thus insured with the new Austrian Health Insurance Fund (ÖGK) from January 1, 2020.

The former Statutory Insurance Organisation for Commercial Business (SVA) and Statutory Insurance Organisation for Farmers (SVB) are merged to form the Statutory Insurance Organisation for Commercial business and for Farmers (SVS). All self-employed persons and thus those who are self-employed in agriculture and forestry (farmers and foresters) are thus insured with this new carrier in all three branches of social insurance (health, accident and pension insurance) as of 1.1.2020.

The former carriers, Statutory Insurance Institute for Civil Servants (BVA) and Statutory Insurance Institute for Railway and Mine Workers (VAEB), are merged to form the Statutory Insurance for Civil Servants and



for Railway and Mine Workers (BVAEB). Civil servants and the majority of contract employee, the group of persons previously insured with VAEB in health and accident insurance and some of the insured persons of the former BKK of Viennese Transport services will be insured with the new insurance company (now also in all three branches of social insurance) from January 1, 2020.

In addition, the Statutory Insurance Organisation for Austrian Notaries office will be transformed into an independent professional care facility.

What is also new is that the contribution auditing organisations of the fiscal administration and the social insurance are being merged. The Federal Ministry of Finance must set up an inspection service for wage-related levies and contributions which carries out the inspection of wage-related levies and contributions on behalf of the local tax office (wage tax, social insurance and municipal tax inspection). Up to now, the health insurance institutions themselves have collected contributions for all branches of social insurance (health, accident and pension insurance).

In the branches of accident insurance and pension insurance (for employed persons), the two previous carriers Pension Insurance Carrier (PVA) and Austrian Workers' Compensation Board (AUVA) remain in existence.

The future role of the largest statutory accident insurance carrier, AUVA, was, however, controversial for a long time. There was a long discussion as to whether the AUVA should be dissolved. In terms of content, the main issue was whether accident treatment, rehabilitation and benefits should be divided between other institutions (e.g. the newly established Austrian Health Insurance Fund and/or the Pension Insurance Carrier

(PVA)) and whether prevention should be transferred to other state institutions such as the Labour Inspectorate. In the end, however, it was decided that the AUVA should continue to exist as an independent carrier.

The accident insurance benefits will continue to be offered according to the motto "Everything from a single source".

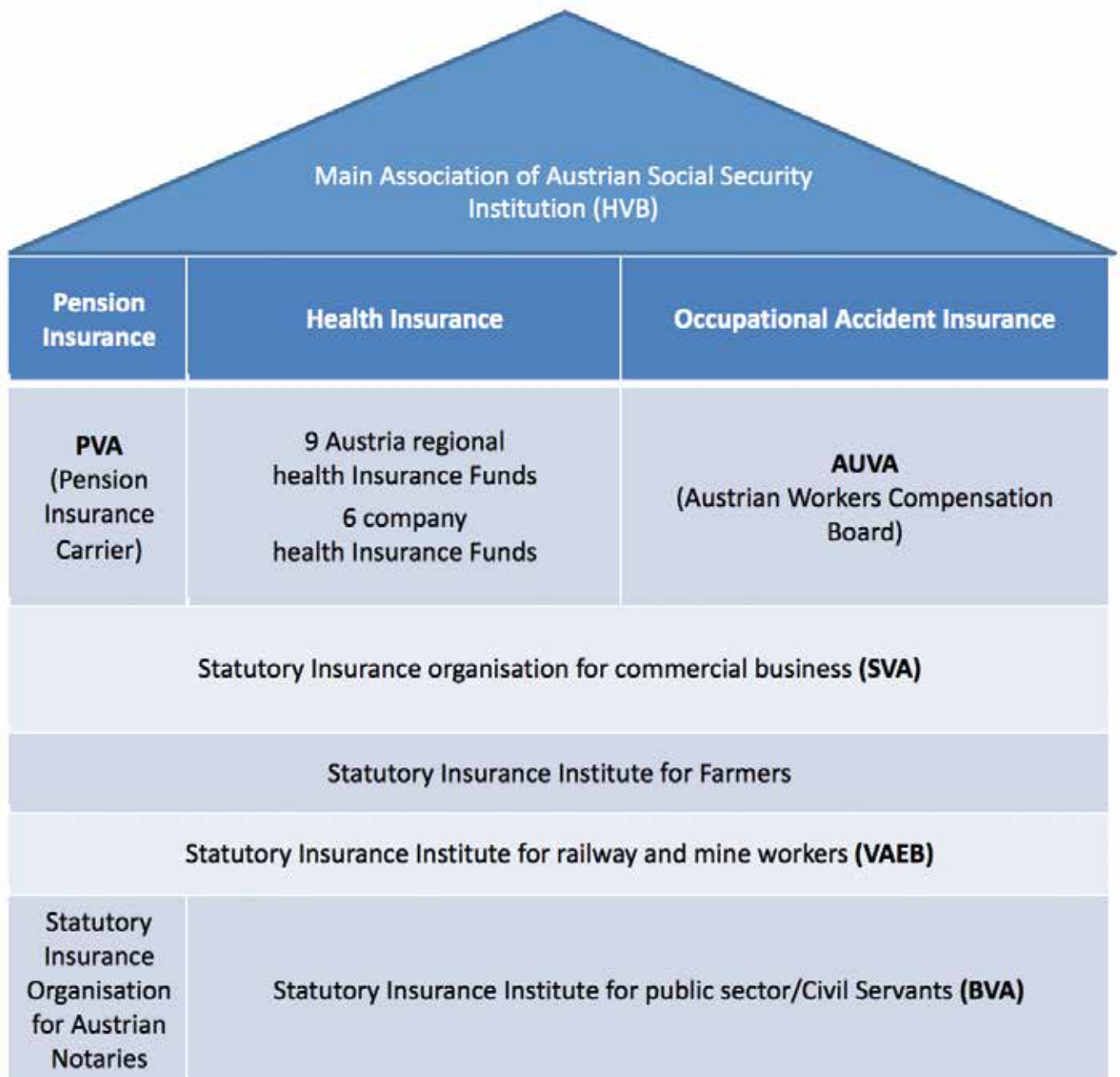
The group of self-employed persons, which was previously insured against accident at the AUVA will be transferred to the newly established Statutory Insurance Organisation for Commercial Business and for Farmers (SVS), the group of "mine workers" to the newly established Statutory Insurance for Civil Servants and for Railway and Mine Workers (BVAEB). The accident insurance contribution to be paid by employers was reduced again within a short time and has now been 1.2% since 1.1.2019.

The advantages and disadvantages of the reform are still hotly debated. It remains to be seen whether a saving of one billion euros announced by the government can actually be realized. Some decisions of the Austrian Constitutional Court are also still pending. Parts of the structural reform were challenged. The main issues here are the constitutionality of the restriction of the powers of self-government and the associated shifts in power in the committees and the extension of the supervisory authority's powers to intervene.

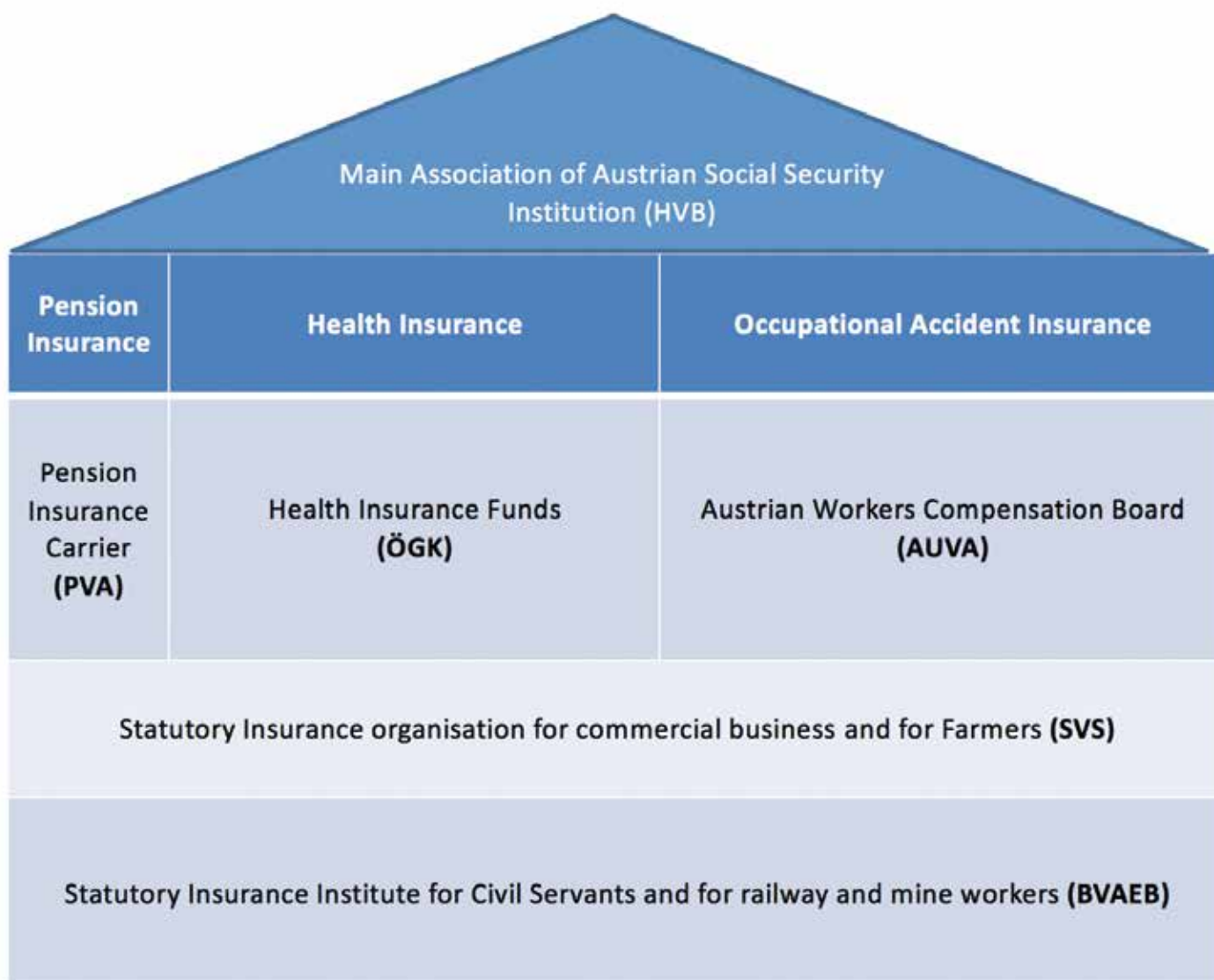
In the two tables below, the restructuring of the Austrian social security system can be clearly understandable:



## Social Insurance Carrier before the structural reorganisation



## Social Insurance Carrier after the structural reorganisation



### Latest developments:

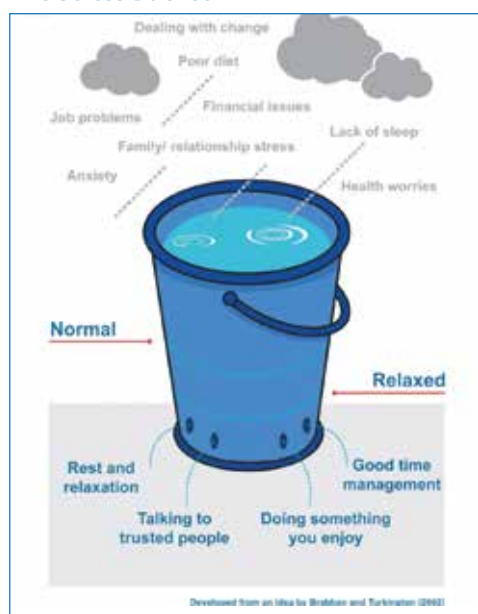
In mid-December, the Austrian Constitutional Court essentially declared the reform of social insurance to be constitutional. In particular, this confirmed the structural reform with a strong reduction in the number of social insurance carriers and an equal number of committees between representatives of employers and employees. However, the planned transfer of the social insurance audits from the health insurance funds to the finance department was revoked as unconstitutional. ■

*Mag. Michael Maltrowsky  
Austrian Workers' Compensation Board (AUVA)  
www.auva.at*

# Croatia: Educational activities within the project of promoting health and safety at work in clinical hospital center Zagreb

Between 2009 and 2018 (with the exception of 2012) hospital work leads in the number of reported injuries with the largest clinical hospitals showing the highest incidence of reported injuries.

## The Stress Bucket



Acting on the initiative of the Croatian Health Insurance Fund and other bodies and institutions involved in the activities of the national Communication working group, the Workplace Health and Safety Improvement Project has been put in motion. This Project encourages the collaboration of healthcare institutions and their employees in building a common strategy to create appropriate working conditions and a safe and healthy working environment. As part of the Project, an analysis of reported occupational injuries at Clinical Hospital Centers, including the Clinical Hospital Center Zagreb, was conducted. In addition to the statistical method, a survey method was used which provided the original data on attitudes of healthcare professionals employed at clinical hospitals. The results of the analyses of work injuries and the results of survey of hospital staffs point to the areas in which the action for improvement is needed and to the contents to which planned education and counseling within the specific health care of workers should be directed. The education is

conducted by occupational medical doctors and psychologists in collaboration with occupational safety experts within the preventive measures which are insured by Croatian Health Insurance Fund.

Education in the Clinical Hospital Center Zagreb began in June 2019. Health professionals are educated about acute effects of noxiousness, hazards and risks at the workplace and informed about the incident related procedures. As part of education, health care workers are referred to the obligation to use work equipment and to carry out personal protection measures, with emphasis of the importance of wearing the right working footwear. Attention is also devoted to the topic of handling patients in a safe manner and also the exercises are presented for employees who are working in the forcible position of the body, such as the work of laboratory staff, sitting computer work etc. It is emphasized the importance of prevention of sharp injuries and factors that can influence that risk, such as adequate personal equipment, safety devices, appropriate working conditions and organizational measures. The education also covers topics of the most frequent stressors by health professionals, as well as the so-called „burnout“ phenomenon. An overview of some of the most effective stress-relief methods is presented using examples. For healthcare professionals, a flyer has been provided with procedures for emergency situations.

We believe that this Project contributes to the positive changes in hospital activities, reducing risks and improving the safety and health in this type of work. We hope that the activities within this Project will raise the feeling of safety, personal health and happiness among the health care workers. ■

*M.Sc. Vinka Longin Peš, LL.M*  
Croatian Health Insurance Fund  
[www.hzzo.hr](http://www.hzzo.hr)

## Italy: A “virtual repair shop” to reduce injuries in repairing motor vehicles

Presented as a preview in Milan at the last edition of Eicma, the motorcycle show, the app can help owners and workers of mechanical repair shops to reproduce potentially dangerous situations with an indication of the correct behaviours to avoid accidents.



© INAIL



Occupational safety 4.0 also runs on the new vectors of virtual reality, using technology to spread the knowledge of the accident prevention good practices. This is the case of “Virtual Repair shop”, previewed in Milan as part of Inail’s participation in the recent edition of Eicma, the international cycle and motorcycle show.

It is an app, designed by Inail, which recreates a real mechanical repair shop for motorcycles through simulations, structures and very analytical 3D models. Specifically addressed to business owners and their employees, but also to prevention and mechanical trainers, this solution makes it possible to visualize potential risk sources in a virtual environment and to simulate safe behaviours, helping people to overcome wrong interventions and consequently to lower

the rate of accidents at work. In 2018, Inail ascertained over 4,500 accidents occurring during the maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, five of which were fatal.

Through a pair of “smart glasses”, the attendant can completely immerse himself in an usual situation of the repair shop, such as changing the oil. Through a very intuitive and easy-to-use interface, the operator is accompanied to perform the sequential gestures, which in the example can be: wearing work gloves, fastening the motorcycle to the platform, placing correctly the tank of used oil.

During the various steps, the app also explains the correct methods of carrying out the intervention together with the illustration of the rules on worker safety in the environments in which they operate. The training approach of “Virtual repair shop” is guaranteed by a close connection to real work methods that the employee puts into practice every day. With the use of data sheets, 3D tools, whiteboards and other multimedia contents, the worker can increase his/her training and learn faster and faster. Furthermore, through the virtual description of each single step, the user is also aware of the correct use of personal protective equipment, such as insulating gloves or non-slip footwear. ■

*Bernardo Sabetta  
Istituto Nazionale per l’Assicurazione  
contro gli Infortuni sul Lavoro (INAIL)  
www.inail.it*

## IMPRINT

Media owner and publisher: AUVA  
Austrian Workers’ Compensation Board

Place of publication: Vienna

## Germany: Safe cattle husbandry

The SVLFG supports cattle farmers in increasing occupational safety through courses, construction advice and information material.

A large proportion of farmers insured with the SVLFG keep dairy cattle in stables or suckler cows on pasture, have fattening bulls or raise calves. Accidents often occur. Every year, several thousand people are injured while working in animal husbandry. There are many reasons for this. Some accidents are fatal.

### Understanding cattle and acting correctly

Work becomes safer when people and animals understand each other better and when the basic rules for handling livestock are consistently adhered to. In addition, farm managers should immediately renovate or replace defective buildings.



Misunderstandings between humans and animals can lead to incalculable situations. People can reflect and change their behaviour; animals cannot. For cattle owners, this means adapting their behaviour so that there are no dangerous misunderstandings when dealing with their cattle. In addition, they must know how cattle perceive their environment and how they usually behave.

SVLFG animal trainers offer courses nationwide on how to handle cattle safely. Here you can learn how cattle perceive their environment, how to deal with animals in a stress-free manner and how to get information about drifting, loading and fixing equipment.

## A cattle sees more and hears more sensitively

The human field of vision is 210°. Cattle have a very wide field of vision of around 330°. Only a narrow angle of about 30° behind the animal is not visible. To an approach in this area a cattle reacts extremely sensitively, since it cannot perceive the approaching person at first. In addition, cattle cannot estimate distances and depths well. In the same way, cattle need up to 5 times longer than humans to adapt to changing lighting conditions. This can become a problem, for example, if you drive the animals out of the darker stable into bright daylight and leave them no time to get used to the bright light.

Cattle are sensitive to loud, shrill and long-lasting noises. Therefore, slamming metal gates or squeaking door hinges are to be avoided.

Frequent positive contact against it promotes the human-animal-relationship. Touches of the hair vertebrae on the spinal column, the eyelids as well as the ear root calm cattle.

Regular and positive contact with the animals facilitates the recognition of the social structure of the herd and is the basis for a safe handling of cattle. Those who consider the typical behaviour of their cattle will be rewarded - by better animal health, increased well-being, but above all by much more safety at work.

## Safe pasture farming

It depends on various factors whether an accident is more likely or less likely to occur when grazing. These include the technical equipment needed to work safely on the pasture and the correct driving of the animals. In addition to suckler cows, bulls on the pasture are particularly dangerous. Their behaviour is difficult to calculate.







## Drive and catch cattle correctly

It happens again and again that cattle run over everything - including people - for the sheer joy of freedom in the fresh air. Driver vehicles or professional livestock transport vehicles with a lowerable loading area make the way to the pasture safer. Mobile catching facilities are helpful, for example, when suckler cows calve on the pasture and want to protect their calf in the first days after birth. They react very violently as soon as people approach the calf. On the pasture there can be dangerous situations if calf and mother cannot be separated.



## Free construction advice

The SVLFG construction consultancy staff will go through the livestock farmers' planning with them and give them tips on how they can optimally plan or retrofit their stables in terms of work organisation, work facilitation and occupational safety. One of many aspects: Safety catch fences make it possible to fix the animal securely.

Tutorial videos on the subject are available on the SVLFG homepage:  
<https://www.svlfg.de/rinderhaltung>

The SVLFG's knowledge in this area is largely due to its cooperation with colleagues from the CAAA and the MSA (France), the BUL/SPAA/SPIA (Switzerland) and the SVB (Austria). ■

*Social Insurance Institution for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture (SVLFG), Germany  
[www.svlfg.de](http://www.svlfg.de)*



## News from Sweden

In the last issue of Forum News, I wrote, among other things, that the agreement that since 1978 has regulated how the information on collectively agreed insurance policies were handled was terminated. At that time, it was not clear what the new agreement would look like - but now we know a little more!

In mid-June, the parties of the labour market, the Confederation of Swedish enterprise, the Swedish trade union confederation, and the Council for negotiation and cooperation, agreed on how the information that the parties manage today will be organized and financed in the future.

It has been decided to start a joint company, which is something quite unusual on the Swedish labor market!

The company was formed in the early autumn of 2019 and will be up and running on its business no later than January 1, 2021. Work on building the new organization has begun and parts of today's operations will be transferred to the new company.

What the new company will be called is not yet clear, but it is clear what the management will look like. The negotiations man-

ager Niklas Hjert, formerly with the union actually called the Union, is recruited as CEO, and from the Swedish Confederation of Swedish enterprise comes Christer Ågren who becomes chairman of the board.

"By forming this company, the parties show that they want to continue to develop the collectively agreed insurance policies. I look forward to being able to join and build a new business where we build on the parties' business and develop the information to make the insurance more understandable" says Niklas Hjert

This agreement does not affect the public sector. The task of managing the information to employees in municipalities and regions will continue to be handled by AFA Försäkring. ■

*Per Winberg  
AFA Insurance  
www.afaforsakring.se*

## Franco BETTONI, new President of Inail, Italy

Mr Franco Bettoni has been appointed President of Inail. He takes over from Mr Massimo De Felice.



Mr Bettoni, 58, boasts a very extensive experience in the field of work-related disability. From December 2008 to May 2019, he held the position of president of the National Association of Mutilated and Disabled Workers (ANMIL). From 2014 to 2019 he led, as national President, the Federation of National Associations for the Protection of Disabled (FAND). Mr Bettoni also served as a member of Inail Strategy and Supervisory Board from 2009 to 2017. ■

## Austria: Appointment of a new Director General and Deputy Directors General of the Austrian Workers' Compensation Board (AUVA)

Mag. Alexander Bernart is the new Director General of the AUVA – Mag. Dr. Thomas Mück and Mag. Jan Pazourek are appointed Deputy Directors General. The AUVA has a new management team since 1 July 2019. Alexander Bernart, the former Director of the AUVA Vienna Regional Office, is the new Director General. Thomas Mück – he had already held this position – and Jan Pazourek, most recently Director General of the Lower Austrian Regional Health Insurance Fund, were appointed Deputy General Directors.



© Richard Reichhart

Alexander Bernart has more than 17 years of experience in social security, including a position as Director at the AUVA's headquarters from 2010 to 2015, where he was responsible for the administration of the company's own facilities, strategic purchasing and e-health.



© Daniela Beranek

Thomas Mück, former Deputy Director General of the Statutory Insurance Organisation for Commercial Business (SVA) and since 2014 Deputy Director General of the AUVA, was reappointed in his function as Deputy Director General.



© Daniela Beranek

Jan Pazourek, a sociologist by qualification and Director General of the Lower Austrian Regional Health Insurance Funds from 2011 to 2019, is the new Deputy Director General of the AUVA. ■

*Austrian Workers' Compensation Board*  
[www.auva.at](http://www.auva.at)

# Les Débats d' Eurogip: “Preventing occupational risks in the healthcare sector for the dependent elderly”, March 12, 2020, Paris

The objective of the EUROGIP discussions (“Les Débats d'EUROGIP”) that will take place in March 12, 2020 in Paris (France), is to present examples of public policies and good health and safety practices implemented at European level with regard to what is being done in France.



## Why is this subject in 2020?

Whether they be self-employed, employees of a service provider or an institution (e.g. a dependent old people's home), the personnel devoted to healthcare for the dependent elderly are faced with multiple occupational risks: physical, chemical, biological, psychosocial, etc. The staff shortages noted for some years now merely aggravate the exposure to these risks and this sector posts a rate of occupational injuries far higher than the national average in France.

In addition to a major immediate occupational health and safety challenge, in the long run better occupational risk prevention promotes the employability of these personnel faced with the challenges of old age.

## Who should attend the conference organised by EUROGIP?

Representatives of public authorities, workplaces (employees, HR, safety managers, Quality, Hygiene, Safety and Environment, Social and Economic Committee, etc.), old people home employees and employers, social partners, OSH experts, occupational physicians and nurses, consultants, academics, etc.

Simultaneous translation into French/English will be provided.

Programme and registration form are available at [www.eurogip.fr](http://www.eurogip.fr) ■

*Isabelle Leuleu  
EUROGIP  
[www.eurogip.fr](http://www.eurogip.fr)*

## The next conference of the European Forum will be organised by the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV):

September 15 – 17, 2020, Berlin / Germany



© JR Photography

### Main Topics:

#### Digitalisation:

- Administration Procedures
- Secure exchange of Data
- Accessibility of Data

#### Agenda 2050:

- Social model of the future

#### Occupational Diseases:

- Developments
- Perspectives
- Nanoparticles
- Mental Diseases

More information will be available on the website of the European Forum:

<https://www.europeanforum.org/>

DGUV is looking forward to welcoming you in Berlin.