

# OSH Authorities — European Union

## Description scheme for country overviews

### EUROPEAN UNION

Source: <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/country/eu-level#actors-and-institutions>

#### ■ OSH authorities and inspection services

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| Name of authority | <b>European Commission</b>  |
| Links             | <a href="https://ec.europa.eu">https://ec.europa.eu</a><br><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&amp;catId=656">http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&amp;catId=656</a>  |
| Short abstract    | The European Commission is the politically independent executive arm of the European Union (EU). It is responsible for drawing up proposals for European legislation, and it implements the decisions of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. It is organised into directorate-generals (DGs). DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion is the main DG responsible for employment, social dialogue and working conditions. |
| Link to source    | <a href="https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/country/eu-level">https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/country/eu-level</a>   |

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| Name of authority | <b>European Parliament</b>   |
| Link              | <a href="http://www.europarl.europa.eu">http://www.europarl.europa.eu</a>  |
| Short abstract    | The European Parliament is the EU's law-making body, directly elected by EU voters every 5 years. The most recent elections were in May 2019. The Parliament has three main roles: legislative, supervisory and budgetary. The European Parliament's Employment and Social Affairs Committee deals with all issues that relate to employment and social legislation. |
| Link to source    | <a href="https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/country/eu-level">https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/country/eu-level</a>  |

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| Name of authority | <b>Council of the European Union</b>   |
| Link              | <a href="https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/council-eu_en">https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/council-eu_en</a>  |
| Short abstract    | <p>The Council of the European Union comprises government ministers from each EU country, who meet to discuss, amend and adopt laws. In most cases, they work together with the European Parliament through the co-decision procedure to jointly adopt legislation and coordinate policies. The ministers have the authority to commit their governments to the actions agreed on in Council meetings.</p> <p>Together with the European Parliament, the Council is the main decision-making body of the EU. The Council of the EU is a single legal entity, but it meets in 10 different configurations, depending on the subject being discussed. The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council configuration (EPSCO) brings together ministers responsible for employment, social affairs, health and consumer policy from all EU Member States. The advisory committees of EPSCO that deal with employment and social protection issues are the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee.</p> |
| Link to source    | <a href="https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/country/eu-level">https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/country/eu-level</a>  |

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| Name of authority | <b>Advisory Committee for Safety and Health at Work (ACSH)</b>   |
| Link              | <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=148&amp;langId=en&amp;intPagelId=683">https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=148&amp;langId=en&amp;intPagelId=683</a>  |
| Short abstract    | <p>The ACSH assists the European Commission in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of activities in the field of occupational safety and health (OSH) and facilitates cooperation between national administrations, trade unions and employers' organisations.</p> <p>The ACSH is composed of three full members per Member State, representing national governments, trade unions and employers' organisations. The ACSH reports on its tasks and activities in annual activity reports, which are prepared by the Bureau and discussed and adopted by the ACSH. It meets twice a year at the ACSH plenary meetings.</p> |

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| Name of authority | <b>Senior Labour Inspectors' Committee (SLIC)</b>  |
| Link              | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=148&amp;intPagelId=685">http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=148&amp;intPagelId=685</a>  |
| Short abstract    | <p>The SLIC is one of the main institutions and mechanisms that monitor the enforcement of employees' rights. The SLIC started to meet informally in 1982 to assist the European Commission in monitoring the enforcement of EU legislation at national level. A Commission decision (95/319/EC) gave the committee its formal status in 1995, along with a mandate to give its opinion to the Commission, either at the Commission's request or on its own initiative, on all problems relating to Member States' enforcement of EU law on health and safety at work.</p> |
| Link to source    | <a href="https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/country/eu-level">https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/country/eu-level</a>  |

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| Name of authority | <b>Eurostat</b>  |
| Link              | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat">http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat</a>  |
| Short abstract    | <p>Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union, situated in Luxembourg. Its mission is to provide high-quality statistics for Europe.</p> |

#### ■ Prevention institutes

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| Name of institute | <b>European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)</b>   |
| Link              | <a href="https://osha.europa.eu">https://osha.europa.eu</a>  |
| Short abstract    | <p>The tripartite, decentralised European Agency for Safety and Health at Work has a mandate to make European workplaces safer, healthier and more productive for the benefit of businesses, employees and governments. EU-OSHA promotes a culture of risk prevention to improve working conditions in Europe, and provides tools and advice to organisations to help them improve health and safety in the workplace; it provides comprehensive information and background studies on a large variety of OSH-issues. Its Healthy Workplaces campaigns run across Europe and are aimed at raising awareness about occupational safety and health topics.</p> |
| Link to source    | <a href="https://osha.europa.eu/en/about-eu-osha/what-we-do">https://osha.europa.eu/en/about-eu-osha/what-we-do</a>  |

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| Name of service | <b>European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions</b> (Eurofound)  |
| Link            | <a href="https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/">https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/</a>  |
| Short abstract  | Eurofound is a tripartite, decentralised EU agency. Its role is to provide knowledge, information, advice and expertise on living and working conditions, industrial relations and work-related policies in Europe for key actors in EU social policy. |
| Link to source  | <a href="https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/country/eu-level">https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/country/eu-level</a>  |

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| Name of institute | <b>European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training</b> (Cedefop)   |
| Link              | <a href="http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/fr">http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/fr</a>   |
| Short abstract    | Cedefop is another tripartite, decentralised agency of the EU. It is charged with assisting the European Commission, Member States and social partner organisations across Europe to develop policy on vocational training in the EU. Cedefop — based in Thessaloniki, Greece — was established in 1975 by Council Regulation (EEC) No 337/75 as a non-profit-making body and was one of the first (together with Eurofound) specialised, decentralised agencies set up to provide scientific and technical knowledge in a specific field and to promote the exchange of ideas between European partners. |
| Link to source    | <a href="https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/country/eu-level">https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/country/eu-level</a>   |

#### ▪ Standardisation bodies

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| Name of body   | <b>European Committee for Standardisation</b> (CEN)  |
| Link           | <a href="https://www.cen.eu">https://www.cen.eu</a>  |
| Short abstract | <p>The CEN is an association that brings together the national standardisation bodies of 34 European countries.</p> <p>It provides a platform for the development of European standards and other technical documents in relation to various kinds of products, materials, services and processes.</p> <p>The CEN supports standardisation activities in a wide range of fields and sectors, including air and space, chemicals, construction, consumer products, defence and security, energy, the environment, food and feed, health and safety, healthcare, ICT, machinery, materials, pressure equipment, services, smart living, transport and packaging.</p> |