

# Which future of regulation and policy for the prevention of psychosocial risks in the EU?

Brussels, 19-20 October 2023

**Psychosocial risks at work (PSR) are increasing dramatically in the EU and are a reality of today we cannot set aside anymore.**

There are potential negative impacts on both workers in terms of their mental and physical health notably due to overwork, bullying and harassment, lack of autonomy, social isolation, job insecurity, and work-related stress, especially since the Covid-19 pandemic, and on organizations, in terms of reduced performance and sustainability. The cost caused by PSR is primarily human, social and economic.

This new landscape needs to be considered in order to meet the objective of the framework directive 391/89 to take into account the protection of health “in all aspects related to work” and to respond to the principle whereby “improvement of workers’ safety, hygiene and health at work is an objective which should not be subordinated to purely economic considerations.” Furthermore, it is important to do so while addressing the protection of workers’ health and safety as a **fundamental human right**.

The aim of the conference is to take stock of and address “**Which future of regulation and policy for the prevention of psychosocial risks in the EU?**”. It will do so by bringing together researchers, EU decision-makers, practitioners and other relevant stakeholders in order to encourage the constructive exchange of their perspectives on the subject.

## Conference venue:

**Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)**

Hall des Marbres (**Building AX**, Room AX1.216)

50, avenue F.D. Roosevelt (1050 Bruxelles)

**Tramway: Lines 8 or 25, Station: ULB**

**[Solbosch campus map](#) (see **AX building**):**

<https://www.ulb.be/en/solbosch/campus-map>



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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Places are limited, registration required at:

<https://goo.by/ciecst>

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ULB



Conference supported  
by the GIS-GESTES



International research chair  
CIECST | Comparative  
occupational health studies

COMPTRASEC | Centre for  
Comparative Labour and  
Social Security Law

université  
BORDEAUX



etui.

9.00 Opening by **Marian SCHAAPMAN**, ETUI; **Vanessa DE GREEF**, ULB, Centre de droit public et social

### THE RESEARCH PERSPECTIVE : SITUATION AND NEEDS

Moderator: **Marian SCHAAPMAN**, ETUI

9.05 *Conceptualising work-related psychosocial risks (PSR)*  
**Stavroula LEKA**, Lancaster University and EAOHP

9.25 *PSR in the EU*  
**Oscar VARGAS**, EUROFOUND, Research Manager

9.50 *PSRs in Micro and Small Enterprises in Europe*  
**Julia FLINTROP**, EU-OSHA, project manager in the Prevention and Research Unit

10.10 Discussion

10.30 Coffee-break

11.00 *Current legal framework in the EU applicable to PSR*  
**Loïc LEROUGE**, holder of the CIECST

11.20 *Mapping of PSR legal approach in EU member States*  
**Aude CEFALIELLO**, ETUI, Researcher

11.40 Discussion

**12.00 General discussion**

12.30 Lunch

### THE POLICY PERSPECTIVE

14.15 Round-table: The policy perspective on work-related PSR  
Moderator: **Loïc LEROUGE**, CIECST

*Current and next EU-Presidencies*

- **Manuel VELAZQUEZ**, Labour and Social Security Inspector, Spanish Labour Ministry
- **Godelieve PONNET**, General Advisor to the Directorate for Welfare Policy Support, Directorate General for the Humanisation of Work, Belgian Labour Ministry

*European Parliament*

**Maria WALSH (recorded video)**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

*EU Commission*

**Jesús ALVAREZ HIDALGO**, Policy Officer, DG EMPL, Unit Health & Safety at Work

**16.15 General discussion**

16.45 Coffee-break

17:00 Anthony Mainguené Foundation-CIECST Tesis Award Ceremony  
Jean-Paul DAUTEL, "How do French and Quebec law organise and contribute to the occupational integration and job retention of workers with a mental health disorder?"; under the supervision of the late Katherine Lippel and Denis Nadeau (University of Ottawa) and Sylvaine Laulom (University Lyon 2).

17.30 End of work

### THE STAKEHOLDERS PERSPECTIVE

9.00 Round-tables: What further action is needed to address work-related PSR?  
Moderator: **Stavroula LEKA**, EAOHP

*The social partner perspective*

- ETUC, **Ignacio DORESTE**
- Eurocadres, **Nayla GLAISE**
- Business Europe, **Kris de MEESTER**

**10.00 Discussion**

10.15 *The occupational physicians, labour inspectors and employees representatives perspectives*

- Occupational medicine, **Fabriziomaria GOBBA**, President of the Occupational Medicine Section of the UEMS
- Labour inspection, **Minke WERSÄLL**, Senior Chair of the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) EMEX working group, Senior analyst at Swedish Work Environment Authority
- European Works Council, **Alexandre HUCHET**, European Works Council secretary, BNP-Paribas

**11.15 Discussion**

11.45 Coffee-break

**12:00 Conclusions by the conference rapporteur of the conference**

**Jukka TAKALA**, Adjunct Prof/TUNI, DSc MSc BSc FFOM (Hon), Executive Director emeritus, Past President, Board member International Commission of Occupational Health

12.15 Closing by **Marian SCHAAPMAN** (ETUI), **Stavroula LEKA** (EAOHP) and **Loïc LEROUGE** (CIECST)

