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Joint declaration

The European Organisation of Agricultural, Rural and Forestry Contractors (CEETTAR),

And

European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT)

After working on the joint campaign entitled "Working together for risk prevention", which was introduced by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), and the initiative "Reinforced social dialogue aimed at supporting professional training and risk prevention for rural contractors", which was supported by the European Commission;

Based on discussions and decisions taken in 2004 (Success is no accident), 2006 (Münster Declaration) and 2012 (Working towards quality employment and reinforced industrial relations in the rural services sector),

Confirm that:

- Health and safety at work represents a major economic challenge for the agricultural contractor sector.
- Contractors provide the agricultural sector and rural areas with efficient machinery and cutting-edge professional expertise, while continuously striving to maintain high standards and pay special attention to the health and safety of employees.
- The sector's two social partners assume responsibility for improving living and working conditions in rural areas.
- During the past year, they have identified and analysed various risk prevention initiatives at national, regional and enterprise level.

For this reason, they plan to:

1. Continue to work together closely, mainly by launching joint health and safety initiatives aimed at promoting prevention in specific areas. In this way, the social partners aim to:
 - Improve practices and health & safety management for agricultural, rural and forestry contractors;
 - Increase cooperation with representatives of stakeholders from the agricultural, rural and forestry sectors, as well as the competent European institutions for health and safety at work.
2. Use all appropriate courses of action to help improve the skills of managers and employees, in terms of training, information and conduct, in order to provide guidance and improve safety at work;
3. Organise the dissemination of innovative practices at national, regional and enterprise level in member states, which are less committed to prevention policy, in order to further improve safety at work in all the countries of the European Union;
4. Enhance these innovative practices, if necessary, by means of initiatives aimed at their originators;
5. Share experiences at European level, in order to enrich Community expertise in the field of health and safety.

Antwerp, 30 January 2014

Gérard NAPIAS
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