



NEPSI signatories launch a roadmap of actions for the future development of their Social Dialogue Agreement

Joint Declaration

March 2019

The signatory organisations (listed below) of the *Social Dialogue Agreement on Workers Protection through the good handling and use of crystalline silica and products containing it* (in short, the NEPSI SDA) have launched on 26 February 2019 a series of projects which are part of a five-year roadmap (2018 – 2023) defining the future of the Agreement.

With a grant from the European Commission, NEPSI partners will reinforce the development of their Agreement and further promote and implement the good practices through a series of new tools using modern technologies.

Specific actions will be launched towards extension of the scope, special attention to micro – small and medium-size enterprises and new generations of workers, while continuing the work undertaken since the signature of the Agreement in 2006.

The roadmap is aligned with the recent update of the European legislation related to workers health and safety protection and aims to support the implementation on the ground of the European Occupational Exposure Limit value of 0.1 mg/m³ (8-hour TWA) set for respirable crystalline silica dust generated by a work process, and aims to prepare its future evaluation.

NEPSI signatories acknowledge the importance given to their Agreement in Directive 2017/2398 (recital 19), and Directive 2019/130 which sets in stone in a new article (13a) the role of Social Partners Agreements as support of implementation of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive at work.

The recognition of the benefits of the NEPSI Agreement in the EU legislation is a strong motivation for industry and workers to continue working together in the field of better workers health protection thanks to this ambitious roadmap launched on 26 February 2019.



What is the NEPSI SDA?

Concerned by potential exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica, a diverse group of industries and their social partners signed the Social Dialogue "Agreement (SDA) on Workers' Health Protection Through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products Containing it" in 2006. Together, the signatories form NEPSI, the European Network on Silica, to implement effective protection measures and monitor the application of the Agreement over the years. Through this Agreement, the signatories are committed to control the exposure of workers to dust and crystalline silica by applying good practices. It is the first European multi-sectoral agreement published in the Official Journal (OJ C 279, 17.11.2006).

NEPSI signatories:

IndustriAll European Trade Union

ASTA Worldwide - Agglomerated Stones Association

BIBM – The International Bureau for Precast Concrete

CAEF – European Foundry Association

CEEMET - European employers' organisation of the metal, engineering and technology-based industries

CEMBUREAU – The European Cement Association

Cerame-Unie - The European Ceramic Industry Association

EMO – European Mortar Organization

ERMCO – European Ready Mixed Concrete Organisation

EURIMA - -The European Insulation Manufacturers Association

EUROMINES – The European Association of Mining Industries

EUROROC - European Federation of Natural Stone Industries

EXCA – The European Expanded Clay Association

ECSPA – European Calcium Silicate Producers Association (voluntary)

FEVE – The European Container Glass Federation

GlassFibreEurope – The European Glass Fibre Producers Association

GLASS FOR EUROPE – Trade association for Europe's manufacturers of building, automotive and transport glass

IMA-Europe – The European Industrial Minerals Association

UEPG – The European Aggregates Association