



# Protecting outdoor workers from Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer: Trade Unions' Perspective

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# Facts and figures

- ▶ 14,5 million workers in EU exposed to solar radiation
- ▶ 90% men
- ▶ Occupations:
  - Construction sites and road workers
  - Agriculture
  - Seamen / fishermen
  - Others like windows cleaning, waste collection, bath attendance and beach guards, postal services, delivery services, forestry, horticulture

# Trade union demands

- ▶ Proper regulation:

Extension of Directive 2006/25/EC (on artificial optical radiation) to solar UV radiation

- ▶ Regular health surveillance

Including after employment

- ▶ Recognition of NMSC as an occupational disease

# The system of regulation: the hierarchy of prevention measures

- ▶ Prevention at source: we cannot control the sun
- ▶ But the rest of the hierarchy of measures is perfectly applicable:
- ▶ Avoid the risk
- ▶ Organizational measures
- ▶ Collective protective measures
- ▶ Protection of individuals
- ▶ Adapt the measures to technical progress
- ▶ Giving appropriate instructions
  
- ▶ Food for thought: risk assessment or precautionary principle?

# Recognition of NMSC as an occupational disease

- ▶ Medically proven to be caused by exposure to solar UV radiation
- ▶ Almost double risk on NMSC for outdoor workers compared to general public; if working more than 5 years even 3-fold higher risk
- ▶ Preventable by primary prevention, early detection and treatment
- ▶ EU and national legal recognition of NMSC as an occupational disease is therefore only logic
- ▶ To potentially improve access to compensation
- ▶ And as a driver for preventative action



Thank  
you!