


TOP STORY

G20 labour ministers focus on Vision Zero

Good and safe working conditions are gaining in importance internationally

Across Europe and across the globe, issues such as social security and fair working conditions are becoming increasingly important. Against the backdrop of social upheaval and turmoil, as well as a fundamental transformation of the world of work, new scenarios and perspectives must be developed. In addition to the European Commission's various initiatives on a social dimension for Europe, the issue was also a topic of discussion at the meeting of the G20 labour ministers in May.

The focus of the talks between the labour ministers of the 20 leading advanced and emerging countries included sustainable supply chains, the future of work and getting women into employment. 'The G20 labour ministers also focused on Vision Zero – the concept of a world without serious or fatal workplace accidents. It is a major achievement to have this discussed at international level', said DGUV Director General, Dr Joachim Breuer, who addressed the ministers on 19 May in his role as President of the International Social Security Association (ISSA). There is general consensus that the accident insurance system plays the key role in implementing these objectives.

The social security systems are also on the European agenda because they make an important contribution to current efforts to strengthen the social

'Through the comprehensive exchange of good practices, we can jointly overcome the challenges of the 21st century and ensure good living and working conditions throughout Europe in the future.'

Dr Joachim Breuer, Director General of the DGUV



Photograph: Kadmy / Fotolia

Investment in employment injury schemes is an indispensable requirement for decent work, especially in developing countries.

dimension and create a fairer Europe. For example, the European Pillar of Social Rights recently presented by the Commission contains 20 key principles and rights in 3 categories: 'equal opportunities and access to the labour market', 'fair working conditions' and 'social protection and inclusion'. In a position paper on the initiative, the DGUV has welcomed the initiative, but also drawn attention to the issue of competences, as regulated in the European treaties. 'It is important to acknowledge subsidiarity in order not to jeopardise social standards. However, it is just as important to acknowledge cooperation between the Member States. Through the comprehensive exchange of good practices, we can jointly overcome the challenges of the 21st century and ensure good living and working conditions throughout Europe in the future', said Breuer.

Web: www.dguv.de (Webcode d1101135)
(German only)

FYI Vision Zero

The concept of Vision Zero – a world without serious or fatal workplace accidents and occupational diseases – has gone hand in hand with the work done by the DGUV for many years. Vision Zero is the core strategy behind the development of a comprehensive and holistic culture of prevention.

Web: www.dguv.de
(Webcode d1036651)



Social Security

Dear Reader,

The term 'social security' has become the slogan of our time in Europe and internationally, thanks in no small part to globalisation and digitalisation. There's a good reason for this: security is a deeply human need. Workers worldwide want to secure their livelihood for themselves and their families. Employers don't want to jeopardise their legal security or their company because of accidents. Governments want to ensure social peace. The answer to all these needs is social security through healthy and safe workplaces. This and an accident insurance system which frees employers from liability for workplace accidents and occupational diseases, which insures workers and which provides rehabilitation if the worst comes to the worst. A win-win situation for all sides. Countries such as China and Bangladesh are establishing such systems. And that's just the beginning. The G20 recently committed itself to the Vision Zero Fund, which was adopted by the G7 countries in 2015. The aim of the Fund is to improve OSH in poorer production countries and to make working conditions in global supply chains more sustainable. Myanmar is expected to be the first country to introduce elements of accident insurance with assistance from the Fund; the first but very important step to making Vision Zero a reality.

Dr Joachim Breuer
Director General of the DGUV

'Every accident is one too many'

On 16 May, new posters for the road safety campaign "Runter vom Gas!" (English: Stop Speeding!) were presented. The campaign is a joint effort between the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) and the German Road Safety Council (DVR). Starting in mid-May, they will be displayed on more than 700 billboards along German autobahns. The campaign is also being supported by the DGUV. The theme of the new posters is human suffering following a fatal road accident. In 2016 alone, 3214 people died on German roads. DGUV Kompakt spoke with DGUV Deputy Director General and DVR President Dr Walter Eichendorf.

Dr Eichendorf, the DGUV is supporting the new billboard campaign being run by the BMVI and DVR. Why?

First of all, the German Social Accident Insurance is deeply committed to the concept of prevention because preventing occupational diseases and workplace accidents is our ultimate objective. This involves all work-related road and driving accidents including those on public roads, on site or during the commute to and from work. That's why the topic of road safety has such a high priority. In 2016, there were around 180,000 commuting accidents – a figure that is far too high in our opinion. Road traffic is the number one cause of accidents across all social accident insurance institutions in Germany. For this reason, prevention through education and awareness plays a vital role. And that's exactly what the "Runter vom Gas" campaign does.

Vision Zero and the issue of fatal accidents has long been on the agenda both in Germany and internationally. What can be done specifically to achieve the goal of a world without serious and fatal accidents?

Vision Zero is an ambitious goal but can we really aspire to anything else? No, in my opinion, there is no other alternative because every serious or fatal accident is

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Dr Walter Eichendorf, Deputy Director General of the DGUV and President of the DVR

one too many. There are already a lot of initiatives and activities in place. The concept of Vision Zero was developed in Sweden at the end of the 1990s and taken up by the DVR in 2007, followed shortly thereafter by the DGUV. In addition to better road design (infrastructure) such as divided lanes or building roundabouts instead of intersections, it also includes active and passive vehicle safety as well as behavioural rules such as speed limits or bans on alcohol. The "Runter vom Gas" campaign was launched in 2008, at a time when around 5000 people still died every year in road accidents. In 2011, the national Road Safety Programme set a target of 40 percent fewer road fatalities by 2020. By the way, the EU Commission has set a goal of moving 'close to zero fatalities' on European roads by 2050. One thing is clear, we all bear the responsibility for a road system where nobody dies or is seriously injured. Vision Zero is the way of achieving this.

DVR Director General Christian Kellner is calling for a total ban on alcohol in order to prevent serious road accidents. What's your position on this?

In his call for a general ban on alcohol when driving, Christian Kellner put it in a nutshell when he said: "If you drive, don't drink; if you drink, don't drive". There's really nothing to add to this and the DVR board is also behind the ban. Alcohol is still one of the main causes of road accidents. We cannot have a situation where a large number of people are put at risk just because a small group of people still want to drink and drive. It's clear that drinking alcohol has a negative effect on driving. The risk threshold is as low as 0.02% to 0.03% blood alcohol content. German legislation has set the



TOPIC

GVG – platform for social security

This year, the Association for Social Security Research and Policy (GVG) celebrates its 70th anniversary. Since 1947, the GVG has been a forum for discussing the challenges of social security as well as the background and objectives of current reforms. The GVG has a very broad membership composed of many different disciplines that cross all sectors.

‘GVG members benefit from a unique platform where the challenges facing the social security systems can be discussed in a scientific manner.’

**Dr Joachim Breuer,
Director General of the DGUV**

Numerous institutions in the field of social security are part of the GVG. Members include the German social accident insurance institutions; private health, long-term care and life insurance funds; statutory and company pension funds; healthcare providers; trade unions; employers’ associations; and representatives from the sciences and other socially relevant institutions.

The members of the GVG champion the values that have been established over the last decades and advocate a well-functioning social security system. Policy dialogue has also been recently strengthened. Examples of this include the newly founded Scientific Advisory Committee, the GVG Prize for Social Policy Research, and events on important policy topics. Since 2016, there has also been organisational restructuring in order to prepare the GVG for the challenges of the future such as changing working conditions and improved networking of private and public stakeholders in the health and social security systems. ‘GVG members benefit from a unique platform where the challenges facing the social security systems can be discussed in a scientific manner, across disciplines and across sectors. The results can then be embedded into policy’, said Dr Joachim Breuer, DGUV Director General and GVG Chairman.

Background: “Runter vom Gas” (English: “Stop Speeding!”)

With its appeal to emotions, the “Runter vom Gas” campaign has been raising awareness of road risks since 2008; its goal is to increase safety on German roads. In 2016, 3214 people lost their lives in road accidents. In 2011, it was 4009. In the same year, the National Road Safety Programme set a goal of 40 percent fewer road fatalities by 2020.

legal driving limit at 0.05%. But even at this value, the risk of being involved in an accident is double that of a sober person.

Dr Eichendorf, what is the German Social Accident Insurance doing for road safety in concrete terms?

We’re involved in many different ways and across different areas. Our most important partner is the DVR which is the umbrella organisation for road safety in Germany. Together we have developed instruments for conducting a hazard assessment for mobility and the DVR has a comprehensive set of proven tools for preventing road accidents. In addition, we have specific rules and provisions for protecting workers ‘on the road’, for example the dangerous situation of a garbage vehicle driving backwards. The German social accident insurance institutions work closely with the DVR on raising awareness and providing training, for example through targeted campaigns and practical training courses for driving. In the Institute for Work and Health (IAG) in Dresden we have an ul-

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Dr Walter Eichendorf, Deputy Director General of the DGUV and President of the DVR

tra-modern driving simulator. We support schools and day-care centres with teaching materials as well as training for teachers and trainers. We also conduct our own research on improving road safety, for example driver-assistance systems, which have enormous potential for increasing safety on our roads. But this is only a fraction of the work we are doing to make our roads and their surroundings safer, because a fatality shatters more than just one life.



Dr Walter Eichendorf
Deputy Director General
of the DGUV and President
of the DVR

Photograph: Runter vom Gas

RECOMMENDED

ed – the DSV's new special bulletin



'Towards a more social Europe' is the title of the first edition of ed. This special news bulletin published by the European Representation of the German Social Insurance in Brussels provides information about issues related to social security at European level. The European Representation acts on behalf of the statutory health, pension and accident insurance institutions in Germany. It follows proposed legislative procedures and initiatives, analyses and discusses them, and draws attention to background information and potential effects on the branches of social insurance. Every edition is devoted to one focus topic. The aim is to bring readers closer to issues concerning social policy and provide an insight into the workings of European policy-making. ed appears four times a year.

Web: www.dsv-europa.de/en > Themenletter

NEWS IN BRIEF

Meeting of G20 labour ministers

On 18 and 19 May 2017, the G20 labour and employment ministers met in Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler to discuss issues related to labour and social policy. The main discussion topics were the impact of digitalisation on the future world of work; migration; equal opportunities for women; and the fight against youth unemployment. Dr Joachim Breuer, DGUV Director General, attended the Labour Ministers' Meeting for the first time in his capacity as President of the International Social Security Association (ISSA). In his address to the ministers, he stressed that the responsibility for OSH and rehabilitation must be in the hands of the respective national institutions because they are the only ones who have the practical experience needed for this and they best know the needs of the people concerned. He also called for social protection to be expanded worldwide. He used the examples



The G20 labour and employment ministers met in May

of China and Bangladesh where social security systems are well on their way thanks to the involvement of the German Federal Government. 'It's great that by helping other countries to establish accident insurance systems the German Social Accident Insurance is also providing a service to German companies and German workers, because nearly all of us are connected with one another globally via supply chains. This is one of the successes of the G20 Meeting in Bad Neuenahr', said Breuer.

IMPORTANT DATES

21-22 June 2017
Prevention and Good Work of the Future
BERLIN
www.verdi-bub.de > Seminare

27 June 2017
Risk Assessments for SMEs
BOCHUM
www.lia.nrw.de > Veranstaltungen

30 June 2017
A Decade of REACH
DORTMUND
www.baua.de > Veranstaltungen

19 July 2017
Mental Health in the World of Work
BERLIN
www.basi.de > Veranstaltungen

NUMBER OF THE MONTH

2,063

hazardous substances ...

... and their occupational exposure limits are listed in the GESTIS international database.

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Happy Birthday Napo

Napo has been raising awareness of OSH for 20 years. His use of few words and lots of gestures mean he's understood worldwide. Thanks Napo!

Web: www.napofilm.net/en