

**Press release****Health and safety of temporary workers:  
an emerging concern in Europe**

To conclude the fourth Eurogip Discussions<sup>1</sup>, which, on Friday 14 October 2005, concerned the health and safety of temporary workers in Europe, Franck Gambelli, chairman of the Commission for occupational injuries and diseases of the French national health insurance fund for employees (CNAMTS), announced a meeting of the social partners on 4 November next for a joint review of occupational risk prevention in the temporary work sector.

Long neglected, the safety of temporary workers is now a focus of concern for the European Commission. The Eurogip Discussions underlined the slight attention paid to this subject by the Member States: admittedly, all the countries have transposed the 1991 directive into their national legislation, but in practice the safety of temporary workers is not yet a priority for them. It is in this context that the European Commission decided to initiate an in-depth study on the subject.

Far from confining themselves to pessimistic observations, the Eurogip Discussions have proved that tools for the protection of temporary workers exist and that good practices are emerging in Europe. In Germany, temporary work agencies train their permanent staff regarding the question of occupational risks; in Belgium, they are subject to certification procedures depending on their capability for taking into account the safety of temporary workers; in France, the regional health insurance fund (CRAM) for Central France recommends establishing a tutorship system allowing the temporary worker to be provided with personalised support throughout his (her) assignment. Some user firms, for their part, are generally adopting the preparation of detailed position data sheets to be handed to new employees, etc.

All these systems are based on the same observation: insofar as possible dialogue and consultation must be encouraged between the three stakeholders in the temporary work relationship: temporary work agencies, firms using temporary labour, and temporary workers. Improved mutual information concerning the job to be entrusted - content, qualifications and skills required, any risks, etc. - and better supervised induction give immediate results with lower occupational injury statistics.

Proceedings are available (in French only): see Publications in the French section on [www.eurogip.fr](http://www.eurogip.fr).

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<sup>1</sup> Eurogip is a public interest grouping (*Groupement d'intérêt public*) set up by the French National Health Insurance Fund for Employees (CNAMTS) and the National Institute for Research and Safety (INRS) to work on the European aspects of occupational risks