











#### Frequently used abbreviations, symbols and acronyms

**AW(s)** Accident(s) at work

CARSAT Caisse d'assurance retraite et de la santé au travail - Retirement and Occupational Health

Insurance Fund (16 regional funds)

**CAT/MP** Commission des accidents du travail et des maladies professionnelles - Accidents at work

and occupational diseases Commission in charge to define the policy guidelines of the

Occupational Risks Insurance system

CGSS Caisse générale de sécurité sociale - General social security fund (4 funds in the French

overseas departments)

CNAM Caisse nationale de l'assurance maladie - French National Health Insurance Fund

**CNOCT** Conseil national d'orientation des conditions de travail - Steering Committee on Working

Conditions

**CRAMIF** Caisse régionale d'assurance maladie d'Ile-de-France - Ile-de-France Regional Health

Insurance Fund

DGT Direction générale du travail - National Directorate of Labour within the Ministry

DRP Direction des risques professionnels - Occupational Risks Department, within CNAM

**EU-OSHA** European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

INRS Institut national de recherche et de sécurité - National Institute for Research and Safety for the

prevention of occupational injuries

**OD(s)** Occupational disease(s)

**OSH** Occupational safety and health

The Health/Occupational Risks Insurance system, also known as the Occupational Injuries Branch of the Social security system, aims to promote a safer and healthier work environment by reducing occupational injuries.

It serves more than 20 million employees in more than 2 million companies. With its network of funds established throughout the country (Caisses primaires d'assurance maladie - CPAM, CARSAT, CRAMIF and CGSS), it performs three interdependent missions: it compensates and supports all the victims of work-related diseases and injuries, determines companies' contribution rates and works in the field to prevent occupational risks. For this purpose, it uses financial incentives as levers that it can operate for the prevention of occupational risks in all enterprises, including self-employed workers.

On the national level, the Occupational Risks Insurance system is supported by the expertise of two stakeholders that it finances: the INRS and EUROGIP.



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# EUROGIP in hrief

### Observatory and resource centre

EUROGIP is an observatory and a resource centre on accidents at work and occupational diseases prevention and insurance against these risks on the European level and beyond.

It is supported by a strong network built up over the years in the Community bodies and in prevention and insurance organizations elsewhere.

Its mission is to contribute to improving occupational health and safety. This requires first developing deeper knowledge and exploring the best means of action, both in France and internationally.

### **Creation**

1991

### The team

- Pierre BELINGARD
- Marie-Amélie BUFFET
- Saphia FORTASSI
- Raphaël HAEFLINGER
- Christèle HUBERT PUTAUX
- Christine KIEFFER
- Catherine LECOANET
- Isabelle LELEU
- Annarita PIAZZA
- Virginie PLUOT
- Isaure POUSSIELGUE
- Mercedes SELLEM-DELMAR

### **Status**

EUROGIP is a public interest grouping established, within the Occupational Risks Insurance system, by the CNAM and INRS. It is funded primarily by the National Fund for Occupational Injury Prevention.

### Joint Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is formed of employee and employer representatives on a 50/50 basis. Its members are nominated by the CAT/MP and INRS.

In 2021:

President: Christian Expert

(CFE-CG))

Vice-President: Daniel BOGUET / Elise Le GOAZIOU (U2P)



### A word from the managing director

was another year severely impacted by the health crisis. For EUROGIP's personnel, who work mostly as part of a wide-ranging French and international network, it was necessary to adapt: meetings at a distance, organization of teleworking, EUROGIP Discussions in a digital version for the first time, etc.

This allowed us to remain responsive and proactive, notably in the support provided for the Occupational Risks Department on topical issues, and to continue our fundamental activities such as occupational health and safety standardization and providing information on occupational risks in Europe.

2021 was also a milestone for the grouping, which celebrated its 30th birthday! An opportune relaxation of the health restrictions enabled us to bring together our partners to celebrate the occasion.

This was an opportunity to see again many of those who contributed to the founding of EUROGIP in 1991, on the eve of the opening of the Single European Market.

At that time EUROGIP was created to analyse the consequences for occupational risk insurance and prevention of the European process which was being put in place, and to take part in this development. Since then it has greatly diversified its activities. The key events of 2021 presented hereafter reflect this.

Raphaël Haeflinger





### Learning and informing via networking



A policy of communication and dialogue with our French and European partners in fields related to occupational risks establishes trust with a view to networking, which is the very basis of EUROGIP's activities.

### Public relations - communication: key events in 2021

## Coordination of the international relations of the Occupational Injuries Branch

By delegation of authority from the DRP, EUROGIP centralizes and disseminates information relating to the international activities in which French Occupational Risk Insurance stakeholders take part.

This mission, recorded in the grouping's Statutes, was reasserted in 2019 and appears in the objectives and management agreement ("Convention d'objectifs et de gestion" - COG) signed between the Occupational Injuries Branch and the French state.

In this framework, EUROGIP has since become a member of:

- specialist commission No. 1 of the National Steering Committee on Working Conditions (CNOCT) devoted to work concerning Europe;
- the International Social Security Association (ISSA); it notably now represents the Occupational Injuries Branch in the Coordination of French institutions that are members of the ISSA (CIFM AISS).

# European Forum of Insurance against accidents at work and occupational diseases

EUROGIP has long been a contributor to the work of the European Forum, including the work of the "Communication" group. For example, it has taken charge of maintenance and updating of the website, it created the Forum's Twitter account (@EuropeanForum\_) and it has been the French correspondent for the publication Forum News since its launch in 1993.

The revamping of the <u>website</u> becoming obsolete was approved by the Forum members and carried out in 2021. The DGUV (Germany) provided the funding and the AUVA (Austria) did the technical work.



## **EU** roadmap concerning carcinogenic agents

The DGT within the Ministry of Labour, in the name of France, is involved in this European *Roadmap on Carcinogens* to "mobilize the stakeholders" and in particular the social insurance organizations. It therefore called on the DRP which proposed to EUROGIP to represent it in order to promote the <u>SEIRICH</u> and "Risques Chimiques Pros" tools. The first of these tools aims to assess chemical risks in the enterprise, and the second to prevent them. The aim is also to produce a review of what is proposed in the other EU Member States and place in perspective various available tools.

# European roundtable discussion at the national seminar on occupational risks (JNRP)

As part of the organization of the JNRP seminar, the DRP called on EUROGIP to contact speakers for the roundtable discussion entitled: "Different European perspectives regarding the health crisis: systems for compensation of Covid-19 as an occupational injury".

We therefore identified the countries most representative of the systems adopted and established contact with representatives of the OSH insurance organizations in Germany, Belgium, Italy and Finland. The DRP and EUROGIP then worked together on preparation of the papers with the contributors concerned.

#### **EUROSHNET**

<u>EUROSHNET</u> is the European network of experts working in occupational risk prevention organizations in Europe and involved in standardization, testing and certification.



EUROGIP is a member of the Steering Committee and the permanent secretariat.

As such, it contributed in particular to organization of the seventh EUROSHNET European conference. This event, initially planned for October 2021 on the theme of artificial intelligence and health and safety at work, will finally be held on 20 October 2022 (in Paris) due to the health crisis. On the agenda will be the aspects of trust, control, ethics, legal liability and technical reliability posed by the safe use of AI at the same time as human activities.

The objective is to show that in order to successfully introduce an AI system in the workplace it is necessary to analyse the potential consequences for work, and the OSH opportunities and risks. Lastly, labour experts and stakeholders will discuss how standardization and the notified bodies can play a role in regulating these risks and improving these opportunities.



# Sharing knowledge on occupational risks in Europe



On the international level, and especially in the EU, EUROGIP monitors subjects related to health and safety at work, risk prevention and occupational injury and disease insurance: regulations, strategies, standards, statistics, publications, conferences, etc. It shares this knowledge via various media: newsletters, survey reports, thematic memos, conferences, webinars, etc.

### Monitoring and information: key events in 2021

# **EUROGIP Discussions: Occupational risk** prevention in the elderly healthcare sector

Due to the health crisis and the announced lockdown, the EUROGIP Discussions initially planned for March 2020 on the theme of occupational risk prevention in the elderly healthcare sector were finally held on 9 March 2021. The health situation remained uncertain, so the conference was organized in a digital format.

This was the first such event since 2003 which took place without physical attendance and without simultaneous English translation. Ultimately, 270 people logged in to the conference at one time or another, and more than 200 of them followed the conference throughout the day.

The most significant statistic concerns the 1345 or so views of the seven conference replay sequences posted on the <u>EUROGIP Youtube channel</u>.

The conference was organized in the form of round table discussions. Following the words of welcome and an introduction by the Occupational Risk Director, Anne Thiebeauld, the national mobilization plan to enhance the attractiveness of elderly care jobs 2020-2024 was described by Mrs El Khomri, former French Minister of Labour.

The round table discussions were then devoted to, respectively: a diagnostic, public prevention approaches faced with overexposure to occupational risks, means of action for better management of risks in the field, and the deployment of a new prevention culture.

A report was published immediately after the conference and the proceedings, recapping the discussions more exhaustively, were published in April 2021 (https://eurogip.fr/en/debate/).



#### **Publications placed online in 2021**

Apart from the research memos intended in particular for the DRP, the following publications were <u>placed online</u>:

Occupational safety and health in the EU - Focus on the European Commission's strategic framework 2021-2027

"Machinery" Regulation - Focus on the draft regulation intended to replace Directive 2006/42/EC

European Occupational Diseases Statistics - Focus on the Eurostat pilot project

Occupational risk insurance and prevention for seagoing workers - Research data for 7 European countries

**EUROGIP Annual Report 2020** 

Standardization activity of the Occupational Injuries Branch - Excerpt from the 2020 report

Occupational risk prevention in the elderly healthcare sector:

- Initial summary of the EUROGIP Discussions
- Proceedings of the 2021 EUROGIP Discussions

Protection of slaughterhouse workers - Focus on the German law of 2020

Prevention of occupational deintegration and retention in employment: example of 4 European countries

# Documentation watch and assistance regarding occupational injury insurance and prevention

Monitoring is an essential part of EUROGIP's missions. This involves keeping a watch on:

- Community news on legislation, invitations to tender, standardization, publications, authorities, etc.;
- developments relating to occupational injury prevention and insurance in the Member States and any structural changes in the competent organizations;
- news regarding publications, survey results, events, etc. concerning occupational risks in Europe.

The monitoring results are used in-house as input data for publications and work in progress. At the same time, EUROGIP responds to outside requests (from the Board of Directors, CARSAT, employers, employees, etc.), with questions on issues such as the prevention of occupational deintegration, multifactorial diseases, psychosocial risks, MSDs, work-related cancers, platform workers, etc.

Since 2020, for example, Covid-19 has become a key monitoring issue, from the viewpoints of both insurance (recognition criteria, statistics, etc.) and prevention (social distancing, teleworking, PPE, PSRs, etc.).

## Occupational health and safety standards monitoring

The aim of this specific monitoring is to be vigilant concerning the following three points:

- The emergence of new standardization issues or bodies such as those concerning artificial intelligence and the circular economy, projects underway (including probative enquiries), and the revision of existing standards on fields invested or not.
- New formats of normative documents, such as European CEN Workshop Agreements (CWAs) and AFNOR Specs, produced rapidly without the participation of all the stakeholders, which requires attentive monitoring and, if necessary, the coordinated participation of the Occupational Injuries Branch.
- Growing application of standardization in non-technical fields such as health services, human resource management, OSH management systems and the globalization of work. These changes are so many challenges to be faced. The monitoring of standards in the social and societal field allows the Occupational Injuries Branch to be positioned as far upstream as possible in the process.



#### **Outside contributions and speeches**

Based on its expertise, EUROGIP is called on to present the results of its work, cast a European spotlight on a topical issue, and establish relations between the personnel of the Occupational Injuries Branch and colleagues in other countries.

These requests come from various partners and concern a variety of subjects, as shown by the following examples for 2021:

- Commission on the under-reporting of occupational injuries: comparison between France and its European neighbours regarding the incidence rate, occupational diseases and compensation conditions.
- Dedicated national centre in the Netherlands: review of the situation in France regarding serious occupational diseases caused by dangerous substances and their impact on the incidence rate. The Netherlands wanted to have statistical data before creating a general compensation regime for these diseases, operational in July 2022.
- Enjeux & Actions report: a spotlight on the statistics (German, in particular) relating to falls on the same level and falls from a height.
- Annual Forum of the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC), an American association of workers' compensation jurisdictional agencies from around the world, as well as private US organizations involved in the delivery of workers' compensation benefits and services for occupational injury victims: presentation at a distance of occupational injury and disease insurance systems in Europe.
- POP TV, a Slovenian television channel: interview on the systems of the various European countries regarding the recognition of Covid-19 as an occupational injury.
- Visit to the CNAM by a Jordanian delegation, organized within the framework of a twinning arrangement by Expertise France: representation of the DRP and description of the main features of the French occupational injury insurance system.

- Inspectorate General of Social Affairs (IGAS): research on any foreign systems relating to the conditions of access to certain occupations for persons suffering from chronic diseases (diabetes, epilepsy and HIV). The French government plans to revise the restrictive conditions of access to certain occupations to take into account changes in the treatments.
- National Directorate of Labour (DGT): participation in the steering committee for the organization of a conference dedicated to workrelated cancers in the context of the French presidency of the EU in March 2022.
- Research on German and British regulations on training in machinery operator safety in enterprises and possible recognition on their territory of the French machinery operator safety certificate ("CACES"). Both countries indeed have similar regulations, but do not recognize the French training certificate.
- Research on average concentrations of total and alveolar dusts in rooms with specific pollution and review of the values applied in Germany, the consequences in the event of breaches of the limits and projects underway on this question.
- National Steering Committee on Working Conditions (CNOCT): presentation of the EU strategic framework 2021-2027 for occupational health and safety and review of the recognition of multifactorial diseases as occupational diseases.



# Studying the practices of our European neighbours



The research subjects are usually chosen at the request of the EUROGIP founding members, CNAM/DRP and INRS. The aim is to cast a European spotlight on a topical question in France. In addition to concept notes related to current events, the results of studies and surveys are set out in publications available on eurogip.fr.

### Studies and surveys: key events in 2021

# Social protection and employment status of platform workers

With a view to publishing a <u>report</u> in early 2022, EUROGIP has initiated research on the social protection of platform workers in Europe.

The objective is to analyse platform work, its characteristics, the challenges posed notably with regard to working conditions and the appropriate employment status, and access to social protection (including in cases of occupational injury).

This is a very topical subject, in light of the European Commission's publication in December 2021 of its proposal for a Directive "on improving working conditions in platform work". In particular, the Commission would like to introduce, *inter alia*, a rebuttable presumption of an employment relationship for these workers and improved protection from occupational injuries.

Finally, there will be a review of the measures taken on the national level in recent years in six European countries in order to better regulate platform work and guarantee rights and protections for this category of workers.

# Seagoing workers: Research data in 7 European countries regarding occupational risk insurance and prevention

The Inspectorate General of Social Affairs (IGAS) and the Inspectorate General of Maritime Affairs (IGAM) questioned EUROGIP regarding the organization of occupational injury insurance and occupational risk prevention for seagoing workers in Europe.

This research was covered by a <u>report</u> which, in addition to international and European references, presents research data concerning seven European countries: Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, the Republic of Ireland, Italy and Norway.



## Offer of prevention services in four European countries

With the "TMS Pros" and "Risques chimiques pros" programmes, for example, the French Occupational Risks Insurance system has for some years now been developing prevention solutions to encourage enterprises to commit themselves to preventive measures and support them in their policy. It asked EUROGIP what were the similar arrangements among its counterparts in Europe.

This same recent trend can be seen, for example, among occupational health and safety insurers vested with a prevention mission to design service offers, intended especially for SMEs.

EUROGIP therefore investigated the subject in four countries: Germany, Austria, Spain and Switzerland.

Following a summary description of the concrete prerogatives of the organizations in question, in order to get a better idea of their specificity within the prevention offer, the offers are described. One section in particular concerns digital tools.



## Managing or contributing to projects funded by the EU



EUROGIP replies to invitations to tender coming within its field of competence and published either by the EU (European Commission, Eurostat, EU-OSHA, Eurofound, etc.) or by countries receiving EU loans. It also performs services either as a member of European consortiums or as a subcontractor of organizations which have themselves replied to said invitations to tender.

### European projects: key events in 2021

#### **EU-OSHA** contract on MSDs

In December 2020, EU-OSHA called on EUROGIP to continue the work performed under a previous contract (2018-2020) designed to gather and integrate into an EU-OSHA database practical tools and resources collected on the international level to improve knowledge of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) and help enterprises prevent these risks.

The work, performed throughout 2021 and completed at end-November, consisted more specifically in searching for new francophone resources to then add them to the database. The database was expanded particularly within the framework of EU-OSHA's 2020-2022 European campaign focused on the prevention of work-related MSDs.

### **EU-OSHA** contract on OSH monitoring and inspection indicators

In October 2021 EUROGIP won the EU-OSHA tender entitled: "Structured Overview on Indicators in OSH-Monitoring and Reporting Systems". The main objective of the project, which started on 15 November 2021 for a period of 11 months, is to:

- provide an up-to-date structured overview of these indicators in certain EU and non-EU countries:
- identify indicators similar to those used in the EU-OSHA OSH Barometer (to which EUROGIP contributed);
- describe in detail those that are not yet used or which are completely different from the indicators of the EU-OSHA system.



## A new method for gathering OD statistics on the European level

EUROGIP is a member of the Task Force "European Occupational Diseases Statistics" (EODS) set up by Eurostat in early 2017. This task force aims to define a new method for the production of harmonized European statistics relating to occupational diseases, in order to provide trends regarding the diseases most commonly recognized in Europe. In the wake of the meeting held with the experts, a Focus report was published to describe this new project.

At the same time, EUROGIP was invited to take part in the meeting of the "European Statistics on Accidents at Work" (ESAW) group organized by Eurostat.



# Contributing to standards, as primary risk prevention tools



Occupational safety and health standards are essential references for manufacturers and designers in order to allow for prevention as of the product and workplace design stage. The French occupational risk insurance system, under EUROGIP's coordination, takes part in the production of these standards on the French, European and international levels, in order to assert its viewpoints.

### Occupational safety and health standards: key events in 2021

#### Coordination of a network of 70 experts

In 2021, EUROGIP coordinated the activity of 70 prevention experts of the Occupational Injuries Branch¹ (CARSAT, CRAMIF, INRS and EUROGIP) who took part in the preparation of French standards (in 21 committees), European standards (29 CEN/CENELEC committees) and international standards (19 ISO/IEC committees) concerning the following fields:

- Safety of machinery: 30
- Personal protective equipment: 8
- Workplaces and physical environments: 25
- Construction: 11
- · Miscellaneous cross-cutting issues: 1
- Strategic aspects of standardization: 3.

EUROGIP alerts the CNAM and INRS concerning the setting up of working groups, the launching of projects and the need for experts so that the Occupational Injuries Branch may be represented on matters that are important for it.

To help the experts in their work with the standards offices, EUROGIP provides them with all the

necessary assistance: translation and interpreting, information on standardization systems, and subscription to linguistic reviews or the newsletter of the Kan (Germany).

"Normabase" is also available to them. This database contains OSH standards (NF, EN and ISO) currently being prepared, the contact details of the experts and the bodies in which they are registered, their competencies and the minutes of standardization meetings and annual fact sheets on work follow-up by subject.

In order to foster the network's cohesion, a plenary standardization meeting was held with physical attendance on 25 and 26 November 2021, bringing together 40 people. This was an opportunity to hold discussions on topical subjects and common issues, such as the impact of the revision of the Machinery Directive on standards or the benefits and limitations of exoskeletons for prevention.

As a new feature in 2021, the participants were able to take part in a workshop on negotiation in an intercultural context, moderated by an occupational training organization and followed by a role game.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> To find out more, see the excerpt from the 2020 report on the standardization activity of the Occupational Injuries Branch: https://eurogip.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Normalisation Branche-ATMP-Extrait-RA-2020.pdf



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#### Strategic control of the activity

EUROGIP prepares and organizes meetings both for strategic thinking concerning the standardization action of the Occupational Injuries Branch and for decision making regarding participation in new standardization work.

In 2021, EUROGIP acted as coordinator for establishing the positions and responses of the Occupational Injuries Branch within the framework of consultations on new subjects, the setting up of bodies or standardization requests from the European Commission. The consultations concerned six draft standards under public enquiry addressing the safety of machinery (construction machinery, lifting and handling machinery, etc.) and two drafts on workplaces and physical environments.

Note, in 2021, the setting up of a new CEN/CENELEC Technical Committee on artificial intelligence, work on revision of the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC, and the draft request by the European Commission ("SReq") for the production of harmonized standards on batteries and elevators.

EUROGIP maintained its capability for weighing on the normative consensus and influencing standardization strategy by taking part in the strategic bodies in which the main guidelines of OSH standardization programmes are decided:

- Strategic policy committees on "Occupational Health and Safety" and "Management and Services" of the French standardization association:
- the European Strategic Advisory Body for Occupational Health and Safety standardization, "CEN SABOHS";
- the CEN advisory bureau for machinery standardization, "the Machinery Forum".

EUROGIP is also a member of the AFNOR "Cercle des coordonnateurs normalisation" allowing an exchange of good standardization practices between representatives of large groups and government departments.

Participation in these bodies is designed to assert the French prevention system's viewpoint regarding standardization. In particular, this enabled it to help produce the strategic guidelines for the (OSH strategy committee (COS SST) regarding the national priorities (PST3 2016-2021 and the "COG" agreement 2018-2022). For example, it was essential to perform lobbying when writing the CEN's position with regard to the draft revision of

the Machinery Directive or to initiate several European Workshop Agreements:

- "Health and safety protocols for tourist establishments and services Covid-19"
- "Procedures for tests on the validation of safety competencies in collaborative robotics applications";
- "Procedures for validation tests for safety in close man-robot interactions".

## The Norm'actions and CObaz Horizon tools

Norm'actions, a document circulated to around 280 people in the Occupational Injuries Branch, contains information on the stages of progress on standards currently being prepared, on which experts from the Branch have performed effective work or an active watch.

Moreover, in 2021 "CObaz Horizon" replaced the Standard WebPort portal and now opens access to all the standards of the AFNOR collection (NF, NF EN, NF EN ISO and NF ISO), whether they are in force, planned or cancelled.

CObaz Horizon, produced in partnership with the French Ministries of Labour and Agriculture and published by AFNOR, is made available to the documentation personnel and departments of the CARSAT funds, CRAMIF and INRS, and to the social partners of the Branch.

#### Financing of certain work

EUROGIP is the sole correspondent of the standardization offices for any participation by the Occupational Injuries Branch in standardization activities. In this capacity, it paid the annual registration fees of 30 experts in 20 "Safety of Machinery" standardization committees or groups managed by French mechanical engineering standardization association UNM, and of two experts in two committees of the BNA automotive standards.

EUROGIP provided financial support for the work of **AFNOR** and **AFNOR-DELEC** (electrotechnologies) standardization committees in the five major standardization areas (Safety of machinery, Personal Protective Equipment, environments. Workplaces and physical Construction, and Cross-cutting issues) covering all the subjects in which the experts of the Occupational Injuries Branch take part.



# Defending a high level of safety for certified products



Under the authority of the French Ministries of Labour and Agriculture, EUROGIP manages the competent French Coordinations of Notified Bodies (NBs) for assessing the conformity of personal protective equipment (PPE) and machinery. The Coordinations foster a uniform interpretation of Community legislation and ensure a high level of safety for certified products.

### Coordination of PPE and Machinery certification: key events in 2021

#### **French PPE Coordination**

In 2021, EUROGIP organized two meetings of the General Committee comprising the Ministries of Labour, Agriculture and Industry, and the nine notified bodies (NBs) covering all the protective products and devices subject to third-party conformity assessment procedures in accordance with Regulation 2016/425.

These meetings are an opportunity to determine joint positions applicable by the French bodies, to prepare the French positions to be asserted on the European level, and to discuss the decisions taken during meetings between Member States.

#### **French Machinery Coordination**

The work for revision of the Directive continued in 2021. The French notified bodies were called on to support the views of the national authorities on various subjects. Very special attention was paid to the links between the draft Machinery Regulation and the draft Regulation relating to artificial intelligence.

The health crisis led to the cancellation of numerous coordination meetings; only those of the General Committee were maintained, by videoconferencing.

#### **European Coordination for PPE**

EUROGIP took part in the meetings of the Steering Committee and the plenary meetings of the European Coordination of NBs for PPE, during which the discussions concerned:

- Conformity assessment of essential products for combating the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Revision of the Recommendation for Use sheets (RfUs) and preparation of new sheets related to the PPE assessment procedures, the review of certifications and the establishment of production monitoring audits.

The French Coordination also prepared numerous draft Recommendation for Use sheets concerning:

- The hierarchy of documents that can be used by notified bodies in their activities: a sheet classifying, by order of importance for conformity assessment, the resources that can be combined with best practice rules (harmonized or non-harmonized standards, manufacturers' technical specifications, RFUs in their various stages of validation, etc.).
- The possibility of having "universal" information manuals, covering the whole range of a manufacturer's products: Recommendation for Use sheet to explain the minimum information to be provided for users.



- The simplified procedure for renewal of certifications: a sheet containing additional information regarding the interpretation of the various associated requirements and how they should be implemented by the NBs.
- Accreditation by bodies: Thanks to the assistance of the French accreditation committee COFRAC (COmité FRançais d'ACcréditation), clarifications were able to be obtained by the French NBs concerning the handling of certain remarks reported during audits.
- Brexit: The NBs reported to the European Commission their difficulties concerning accreditation by the UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) to enable them to make the necessary assessments for British territory. A distortion of competition is emerging between UK bodies (which have also been able to become notified on European territory) and the others. The risk is that PPE manufacturers wanting to place their products on British and European markets may subscribe to conformity assessment services with UK bodies alone, which are among the rare ones to be notified for both territories.

## "Machinery" Regulation intended to supersede Directive 2006/42/EC

EUROGIP carried out work on analysis of the major changes that the new Machinery Regulation would bring about for various economic operators, and published a <u>Focus</u> report in 2021.

The current directive establishes a regulatory framework to ensure the free movement of machinery in the European internal market and a high level of protection for the users and other exposed persons.

Various impact studies initiated in 2016 with the interested parties concluded that there was a need to improve, simplify and adapt the text to the market's needs. Accordingly, on 21 April 2021 the European Commission published a proposal for a regulation on machinery and related products.

By proposing a regulation, it avoids the complexity involved in the transposition of a directive. All aspects of the new regulation, once adopted, will effectively become directly applicable in each EU Member State. The discussions now being held on the level of the European Council and the European Parliament are expected to continue until the second half of 2022.

#### **Certification activity of the bodies**

EUROGIP collected the reports on EC/EU type examination certificates issued by the notified bodies, and the decisions taken under modules C.2 and D of the PPE Regulation and Annex X of the Machinery Directive (see next page).

#### PPE CERTIFICATES

In 2021, 1,795 PPE certificates were issued, far less than in previous years. This phenomenon can partly be explained by the health crisis which has paralysed a large proportion of activity since 2020.

#### MACHINERY CERTIFICATES

The number of certificates issued is stable by comparison with other years. The health crisis impacted activity only very slightly, since most of the equipment inspected by the notified bodies is manufactured within European territory.



EUROGIP was founded in 1991 by the French Health/Occupational Risks Insurance system. It is an observatory and a resource centre on occupational risk prevention and insurance in Europe

### eurogip.fr

### 2021 Annual Report

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