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Occupational Safety and Health in Europe's Forestry Sector

Abdul Saboor Atrafi
Sectoral Activities Department, ILO-Geneva

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a Green Economy”, May 10-11 2011, Geneva*

Key Message

Ensure adequate levels of safety and health at work in face of a just transition to green economy.

“The gradual expansion of green jobs will generate new occupational risks. This is caused by a change in work environments, by the introduction of new technologies, new substances and work processes, by changes in the structure of the workforce and the labour market and by new forms of employment and work organization. These will modify the OSH conditions of workers.”

ILO Background Note to Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication. UNEP, 2011



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Forestry: wood,
pulp and paper

**Safety and health in
the European forestry
sector — The impact
of more open markets
and of increased
regulation**

Malcolm Gifford

FORWORKNET UP

ILO SECTORAL ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT - JOINT FAO/EC/EILO COMMITTEE

**Focus on:
Safety and health**

Decent work in forestry

Safety and health in forestry work



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Promoting Decent Work in a Green Economy

ILO Background Note to
*Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable
Development and Poverty Eradication*. UNEP, 2011



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International Labour Organization

Guidelines for labour inspection in forestry

International Labour Office Geneva

OSH in the European Forestry Sector

- Recent European Directives on OSH
- Greater adoption of International Standards on the subject
- Noticeable shift in attitudes toward OSH at work
- Greater concern toward issues like ergonomics, occupational diseases, use of chemicals, etc
- Expansion of open trade and market economy

OSH in the European Forestry Sector

In spite of efforts to improve the situation, the forestry sector's safety performance appears to have plateaued over the last 7–8 years

Fatal accidents in EU–15 countries from 1999–2004 in the category “Forestry, logging and related services”. Data from Eurostat¹⁰

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
No. of fatalities reported in above category	62	77	68	84	72	74
No. of non-fatal accidents reported with over three days' absence	25 334	26 370	23 545	26 075	26 118	24 342

Data Source: Eurostat

OSH in the European Forestry Sector

Accident rates are significantly higher than other sectors

**Estimated averages for EU fatal accident incidence rates
(Numbers of fatal accidents per 100,000 workers)
for certain sectors¹¹**

Sector	Manufacturing (1994–2001)	Construction (1994–2001)	Agriculture, hunting, forestry (1994–2001)	Forestry only (2000–05 data obtained for this report)
Average EU fatal accident incidence rates	3.5/100 000	12.7/100 000	12.6/100 000	Between 24 and 30/100 000

Date Source: Eurostat

Addressing OSH

- A preventative OSH culture
- A management system approach
- The promotion of safety and health
- National safety and health programs and initiatives
- Training and certification of forest operators
- Partnership building
- Expansion of regulation and its enforcement **taking into account the change in technology/processes in face of the transition into green economy**