


Procedure file

Basic information		
INL - Legislative initiative procedure	2006/2015(INL)	Procedure completed
Protecting European healthcare workers from blood borne infections due to needle stick injuries		
Subject 4.15.15 Health and safety at work, occupational medicine		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	PSE HUGHES Stephen	27/10/2005
European Commission	Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	Commissioner	

Key events			
19/01/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/04/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
25/04/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0137/2006	
01/06/2006	Decision by Parliament		
13/06/2006	Decision by Parliament		
21/06/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
21/06/2006	Report referred back to committee		
22/06/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0218/2006	
06/07/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
06/07/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0305/2006	Summary
06/07/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/2015(INL)
Procedure type	INL - Legislative initiative procedure

Procedure subtype	Request for legislative proposal
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 47
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/6/38216

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report		PE367.952	24/02/2006	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE371.941	30/03/2006	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0137/2006	25/04/2006	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0218/2006	22/06/2006	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0305/2006	06/07/2006	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2006)3801	28/08/2006	EC	

Protecting European healthcare workers from blood borne infections due to needle stick injuries

The committee adopted the report by Stephen HUGHES (PES, UK) on protecting European healthcare workers from blood-borne infections due to needlestick injuries. The report, containing recommendations, was drawn up under a little-used procedure which enables the European Parliament to request the Commission to draft new legislative proposals (Rule 39 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, referring to Article 192(2) of the EC Treaty).

The committee pointed out that every year around a million healthcare workers in Europe suffer injuries when their skin is accidentally punctured with a needle that is potentially contaminated with a patient's blood. The consequences can be serious, including infections from HIV or hepatitis B or C. MEPs believed that many of these "needlestick injuries" which occur in the medical world could be prevented if appropriate measures were made compulsory in medical and veterinary services.

The report pointed out that studies had shown that the use of safer needles together with regular training and organisational measures can help reduce the number of injuries. It added that safer working practices and medical devices designed to prevent accidental needlestick injuries would also produce financial savings. The committee said that the existing European legislation protecting health workers from such injuries had "proved ineffective in practice". It therefore called on the Commission to introduce, within three months, a legislative proposal amending one of the relevant directives (Directive 2000/54/EC on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work). The report set out the detailed provisions which should be inserted into the directive.

Protecting European healthcare workers from blood borne infections due to needle stick injuries

The committee adopted the second report by Stephen HUGHES (PES, UK) on protecting European healthcare workers from blood-borne infections due to needlestick injuries. At the plenary sitting of 13 June 2006 it had been decided to refer the first report back to committee for further consideration.

The second report was almost identical to the first, apart from a slight modification in the wording of one of the specific provisions - concerning devices with safety features - to be inserted into Directive 2000/54/EC (Article 15). The new provision stated that "on the basis of risk-assessment, moves should be made towards ensuring that appliances with safety features, where they exist, are used efficiently and in a targeted manner in areas with a particularly high risk of accidents or infection, taking into account the cost/benefit ratio".

Protecting European healthcare workers from blood borne infections due to needle stick injuries

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Stephen HUGHES (PES, UK) on protecting European healthcare workers from blood-borne infections due to needlestick injuries. At the plenary sitting of 13 June 2006 it had been decided to refer the first report back to committee for further consideration. (For a summary of the first report, please see the document dated 20/04/2006.) This report was adopted with 465 votes in favour, 18 against and 13 abstentions. In the vote, MEPs adopted some changes to the version originally adopted on 20 April 2006. These changes relate to the annex to the report in which the committee makes detailed recommendations as to the contents of the proposals requested from the Commission.