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Working Conditions and Social Dialogue
Health and Safety at Work, EU-OSHA

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European Association of Hospital
Pharmacists (EAHP)
Boulevard Brand Whitlock 87
Box 11 (4th floor)
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Subject: Request to get informed - your email of 26 August

Dear Ms Kohl,

I would like to thank you for your e-mail of 26 August in which you inform us about the Joint Statement prepared by the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP) and the European Society of Oncology Pharmacy (ESOP) on the report concerning the 'Study supporting the assessment of different options concerning the protection of workers from exposure to hazardous medicinal products, including cytotoxic medicinal products'.

First of all I would like to point out that the need to continue improving workers' health and safety protection from exposure to dangerous chemicals, including hazardous medicinal products at work, was also clearly emphasised by the Commission in its new EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2021-2027 - Occupational safety and health in a changing world of work.

Your statement points out that the same quality standards for the protection of health workers should be applied throughout Europe and underlines that the health workers should be provided with a range of approved handling options.

Furthermore, the statement identifies the training of workers, the education on hazardous medicinal products and the awareness of safety risks as key elements for the protection of health-workers against hazardous medicinal products.

Finally, you propose to further analyse the exposure to hazardous medicinal products with an additional investigation.

Indeed, it was identified by the study, as well as during discussions with stakeholders, that more effective and equivalent practical application of the national legislation transposing European Union legal framework relevant for the protection of the workers' health against hazardous medicinal products is needed and that more emphasis should be given to training and awareness raising.

For this reason, I am pleased to let you know that the Commission services have already started preparatory work to produce a guidance for the safe management of hazardous medicinal products at work, including cytotoxics. The document will set out and provide practical guidance for the use by employers, workers, occupational safety and health experts and others concerned with safe management of hazardous medicinal products at work.

When drawing up the guidance, the relevant stakeholders, such as the European Society of Oncology Pharmacy (ESOP) and the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP) will be consulted and I would like to thank you in advance for your active support.

In parallel, as explained in my previous reply, the study report has been submitted to the tri-partite Advisory Committee on Safety and Health via its Working Party on Chemicals (WPC) with a view to seek their feedback on this relevant matter. In this regard, I would like to obtain your permission to share this joint statement with the WPC members so that your views are taken into consideration during the future discussions on this topic.

Yours faithfully,

Charlotte GREVFORS ERNOULT
Head of Unit

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