



VISION STATEMENT

According to European Statistics¹, in EU-15, in 2001 there were **7.6 million accidents at work**. 4.9 million of these resulted in more than 3 days of absence from work and **4 900 fatalities** occurred. This means that one worker became a victim of an industrial accident every 5 seconds and one worker died every two hours. Major accidents continue to occur, with significant consequences for workers, the community the environment and the economy. The major accident which occurred at Toulouse on 21st September 2001 killed 21 people on the site, 9 people off-site and injured 2,242 people. 27,000 homes and 1,300 companies suffered significant damage. 5,000 people needed treatment for acute stress. The economic cost exceeded €1 500 million.

The MARS database² records that, approximately **30 Major Accidents happen each year** within the industry sectors covered by the Seveso 2 Directive. By definition these accidents had the potential for major consequences to people and the environment. They disrupt the process of sustainable industrial development, directly through the remedial and prevention activity and indirectly through restrictions placed on the whole industry as a result of these failures. New Technologies bring new safety challenges. Research reveals new technologies and successful practices already applied in specific sectors which should be implemented across all sectors.

Improved risk control supporting the sustainable growth of the European industry needs a co-ordinated effort in research and in identifying and adapting successful practices. Many of the most respected risk assessment and control methodologies have originated or been developed in Europe. Examples include Hazard and Operability Study (HAZOP), Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA). Research work continues in the field to develop further. The Technology Platform offers a superior opportunity to focus this research and clearly define how each project which it supports will play its part in delivering the vision.

Recognising the challenge and opportunities, a high level group from industry, unions, authorities, NGOs and researchers has undertaken to create a **Technology Platform** to achieve **Safety for Sustainable European Industry Growth**. This initiative obtained the support in principle of the DG Employment, DG Enterprise, DG Environment and DG Research and has prepared the strategic plan described in this document for research into new technologies and existing best practice and the implementation of results across all major industry sectors. The Platform for Industrial Safety has a clear responsibility to work with other Platforms and suitable existing or new groups as a network of National platforms to ensure success

The vision for industrial safety performance can be summarised as follows.

- By 2020, industrial safety performance shall have progressively improved (by 25 % [baseline year 2006])³ in terms of reduction of reportable accidents and diseases at work, environmental incidents and accident related production losses. It will have developed an "incident elimination" culture where safety is embedded in design, maintenance, operation and management at all levels in enterprises.
- By 2020 there will be structured self regulated programmes in all major industry sectors which have firm, measurable performance targets for accident elimination equating to an annual reduction rate of 5%
- Accident free workplaces will become the norm by 2020

This will contribute in a major way to sustainable growth for all industry in Europe and improvement of social welfare.

¹ Eurostat, Work and health in the EU, A statistical portrait, Data 1994–2002 (2004), ISBN 92-894-7006-2

² Major accident reporting system. European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Ispra. <http://mahbsrv.jrc.it>

³ Several industrial organisations have been able to set and are close to achieving goals which reduced their incident rates for all Environment, Safety and Health performance by as much as 90% in the past 10 years.