

European Biosafety Network: Prevention of Sharps Injuries in the Hospital and Healthcare Sector – Implementation Guidance for EU Council Directive 2010/32/EU

- The following description on the EBN has been provided to the EPSU Secretariat by Cliff Williams, Chair of the EBN and Vice Secretary General of UNISON, on 1 August 2012.

EUROPEAN BIOSAFETY NETWORK (EBN)

The Network was established in 2009 and was founded by UNISON, the UK's public services union and the Spanish Nurses Federation. The Network is a virtual organisation and membership is open to anyone who wishes to subscribe to its website which is available on a free and open access basis.

The primary role of the Network is to promote awareness and implementation of Directive 2010/32/EU on the Prevention of Sharps Injuries in the hospital and health care sector which was promulgated out of a framework agreement introduced by the European Social Dialogue Partners EPSU and HOSPEEM. A key objective of the Network is to promote the adoption of the principles embraced by the Directive for application to other occupational groups at risk of injury but not covered by the current legislation.

The Network does not levy a subscription rate to members who join it and any events are funded on an ad hoc basis by the participants who act as principal host for the event, eg the annual Biosafety Summit. To date, three summits have been held and these have been funded by sponsoring partners, eg UNISON, the Spanish Nurses Federation, the RCN and the Irish Nurses and Midwives organisation.

The Network is a partnership organisation and to date has worked with EPSU, HOSPEEM, the EU (Health and Safety Unit) and OSHA.

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- **More information on EBN compiled by the EPSU Secretariat**

The European Biosafety Network (EBN) has organised three Biosafety Summits so far, the first in Madrid (2010), the second in Dublin (2011) and the third in London (2012 <http://europeanbiosafetynetwork.eu/london-summit-2012>).

EPSU and HOSPEEM have participated in and contributed to the events in Dublin in 2011 (<http://www.epsu.org/a/7802>) and London.

EBN has produced material to support the implementation of Directive 2010/32/EU accessible on page <http://europeanbiosafetynetwork.eu/resources>.