



## IMA-Europe Press Release

### The European Parliament adopts on 25 October 2017 the first wave revision of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive

**The revised Directive introduces in its Annex I “work involving exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust generated by a work process” and sets a Binding Occupational Exposure Limit Value of 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup> for respirable crystalline silica. The NEPSI Agreement is recognised as a valuable and necessary instrument to support its implementation.**

The directive was approved on 25 October in plenary session of the European Parliament by 540 votes to 6 against, with 119 abstentions. Once endorsed by the Council, the new rules will be published in the EU Official Journal and will enter into force 20 days after publication. After publication, Member States will have two years to transpose the directive in their national laws.

The directive sets exposure limits for a further 11 carcinogens in addition to those covered by the existing 2004 directive, among which a Binding Occupational Exposure Limit Value for Respirable Crystalline Silica generated by a work process at 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. Article 18a specifies that the European Commission will evaluate the need to modify this limit value as part of the next evaluation of the implementation of the Directive<sup>1</sup>.

The European Industrial Minerals Association (IMA-Europe) acknowledges the European Binding Limit Value of 0.1mg/m<sup>3</sup> which aims to protect workers and defines a unique maximum level across the EU.

Recital 19 of the Directive acknowledges the positive role of the Good Practices of the Social Dialogue "**Agreement on Workers' Health Protection Through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products Containing it**" (known as the NEPSI Agreement) as a valuable and necessary instrument to complement these new regulatory requirements and support their implementation.

IMA-Europe and the NEPSI social partners are pleased by this positive recognition, it reinforces our commitment to continue working together to enhance worker health protection and ensure that the NEPSI Agreement continues to play a key role in facilitating compliance with this new European law.

IMA-Europe now pleads for a harmonized and consistent transposition of this revised directive into national legislations to ensure a level playing field within the EU and equal level of protection for EU workers.

Brussels, 26 October 2017

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<sup>1</sup> ref. Article 17a of framework directive 89/391/EEC