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## Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

### Declaration <sup>1</sup>

### World Day for Safety and Health at Work

On the occasion of the 2015 World Day for Safety and Health at Work, the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) wishes to highlight the problem of work-related accidents and diseases. About 160 million people are affected globally<sup>2</sup> and the overall cost to society is estimated at 2.6 to 3.8% of GDP in European countries<sup>3</sup>, with consequences on workers' health, well-being, and performance. The Committee is especially concerned about the increasing numbers of people affected by work-related mental health problems in Europe.

Referring to the PACE Resolution 1993 (2014) on "Decent work for all", the Committee reiterates that only a healthy and safe working environment enables people to realise their full potential and contributes to their quality of life. Governments must therefore make no concessions on occupational safety requirements and must ensure that these are thoroughly respected by all employers. Moreover, guaranteeing the coherent implementation of core labour norms and relevant provisions of the European Social Charter is essential for preserving a healthy and safe work environment for all.

<sup>1</sup> Unanimously adopted by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development on 21 April 2015.

<sup>2</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO)

<sup>3</sup> European Agency for Safety and Health at Work EU-OSHA