

[Final report on the proposed amendments to RTS 11](#)

[Download PDF](#)

[Erkennung arbeitsbedingter Erkrankungen mithilfe von Warn- und Beobachtungssystemen: Neue Studie](#)

Roaming charges ended in the European Union on 15 June 2017. Europeans travelling within EU countries will 'Roam Like at Home' and pay domestic prices for roaming calls, SMS and data. ...

On 23 June 2016 citizens of the United Kingdom (UK) voted to leave the European Union (EU). On 29 March 2017 the UK formally notified the European Council of its intention to leave the EU by...

Over the past 20 years, the European Union has put in place some of the highest common asylum standards in the world. And in the past two years, European migration policy has advanced in leaps and...

'Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.' Robert Schuman 9 May 1950 On 25 March 2017, ...

In response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and deliberate destabilisation of a neighbouring sovereign country, the EU has imposed restrictive measures against the Russian Federation. ...

Enlargement is the process whereby countries join the EU. Since it was founded in 1957, the EU has grown from 6 member countries to 28. Any European country that respects the principles of liberty, ...

Detecting work-related diseases using alert and sentinel systems: new research

A new report details the findings of a major project in which the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) brought together experts and policy-makers from across Europe to examine and discuss alert and sentinel approaches for the early detection of new risks and work-related diseases.

Work-related ill-health and injury is costing the European Union 3.3 % of its GDP (ILO, 2017). That's €476 billion every year that could be saved with the right occupational safety and health systems, policies and practices.

The report *'Alert and sentinel approaches for the identification of work-related diseases in the EU'* shows how these systems operate to identify emerging health problems at work, initiate early health interventions and prevention, and support evidence-based policy-making. This project demonstrates how useful alert and sentinel systems are to complement the instruments already used to monitor known occupational diseases as they help detect new work-related diseases. Examples include 'popcorn disease', a serious lung disease in factory workers and heart problems from carbon monoxide exposure at a coffee-processing plant. It also recommends how policy-makers and occupational safety and health (OSH) actors can implement them. The project was designed to encourage information exchange and to promote success stories.

EU-OSHA director Christa Sedlatschek emphasises the potential benefits of such systems: *'Work-related ill-health and injury is costing the European Union 3.3 % of its GDP (ILO, 2017). That's €476 billion every year that could be saved with the right occupational safety and health systems, policies and practices. We hope that EU-OSHA's project will serve as an inspiration to implement alert and sentinel systems in those countries where they do not already exist.'*

The report identified 75 surveillance systems used in 26 countries. In-depth analysis on 12 of the systems shows the different approaches that can be followed and showcases their strength and versatility. Practical aspects of their implementation and links with prevention and policy-making are described and the report also shows how an alert and sentinel function can be added to an existing monitoring system.

For example, SIGNAAL is a sentinel system based on an online reporting service to collect in a practical, quick and easy way suspicions about new relations between ill health and work; the system was developed by Dutch and Belgian experts. The Norwegian Registry of Work-Related Diseases (RAS) is a national registry run by the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority that

implements a framework for sentinel health events with a low reporting threshold to make the reporting of suspected work-related cases as easy as possible.

The key findings also reflect on the following issues:

- There is no ideal surveillance system. Several systems are described, each with strong points and disadvantages. Stakeholders should consider the context in which the system will operate, learn from good practice examples and aim to implement approaches that complement those already in place.
- Some monitoring gaps were identified. Specific groups of work-related diseases, in particular multifactorial and long-latency work-related diseases such as mental illnesses, musculoskeletal disorders and certain cancers, or the potential health effects of new and emerging technologies such as nanotechnologies or advanced robotics, are not currently well monitored. In addition, the focus tends to be on traditional sectors such as agriculture and construction, and should be expanded to incorporate neglected sectors such as the hotel, restaurant and catering sector and growing sectors such as communication and IT services.
- Important factors in developing these systems include sharing success stories about the contribution of these systems to the identification of new work-related diseases and their prevention. This is vital both to motivate people to report cases and to secure political and financial support. Strengthening collaboration with national OSH bodies, and with public health bodies, is also a key success factor to transfer the systems' findings into policy-making. International cooperation and data sharing between Member States is important to improve alert and sentinel surveillance in the EU.

Links:

[Détecter les maladies d'origine professionnelle à l'aide de systèmes d'alerte et de sentinelle: nouvelles recherches](#)

Roaming charges ended in the European Union on 15 June 2017. Europeans travelling within EU countries will 'Roam Like at Home' and pay domestic prices for roaming calls, SMS and data. ...

On 23 June 2016 citizens of the United Kingdom (UK) voted to leave the

European Union (EU). On 29 March 2017 the UK formally notified the European Council of its intention to leave the EU by...

Over the past 20 years, the European Union has put in place some of the highest common asylum standards in the world. And in the past two years, European migration policy has advanced in leaps and...

'Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.' Robert Schuman 9 May 1950 On 25 March 2017,...

In response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and deliberate destabilisation of a neighbouring sovereign country, the EU has imposed restrictive measures against the Russian Federation. ...

Enlargement is the process whereby countries join the EU. Since it was founded in 1957, the EU has grown from 6 member countries to 28. Any European country that respects the principles of liberty,...

[Remarks by President Donald Tusk after the European Council meetings on 13 December 2018](#)

[Preben Aamann](#)

European Council President Spokesperson

+32 2 281 51 50

+32 476 85 05 43

I will start with Brexit. Today Prime Minister May informed the leaders about the difficulties with ratifying the deal in London and asked for further assurances that would, in her view, unlock the ratification process in the House of Commons. After discussing the Prime Minister's intervention among 27 leaders, and bearing in mind our full respect for the parliamentary process in the United Kingdom, we have agreed the following:

"1. The European Council reconfirms its conclusions of 25 November 2018, in which it endorsed the Withdrawal Agreement and approved the Political Declaration. The Union stands by this agreement and intends to proceed with its ratification. It is not open for renegotiation.

2. The European Council reiterates that it wishes to establish as close as possible a partnership with the United Kingdom in the future. It stands ready to embark on preparations immediately after signature of the Withdrawal Agreement to ensure that negotiations can start as soon as possible after the UK's withdrawal.

3. The European Council underlines that the backstop is intended as an insurance policy to prevent a hard border on the island of Ireland and ensure the integrity of the Single Market. It is the Union's firm determination to work speedily on a subsequent agreement that establishes by 31 December 2020 alternative arrangements, so that the backstop will not need to be triggered.

4. The European Council also underlines that, if the backstop were nevertheless to be triggered, it would apply temporarily, unless and until it is superseded by a subsequent agreement that ensures that a hard border is avoided. In such a case, the Union would use its best endeavours to negotiate and conclude expeditiously a subsequent agreement that would replace the backstop, and would expect the same of the United Kingdom, so that the backstop would only be in place for as long as strictly necessary.

5. The European Council calls for work on preparedness at all levels for the consequences of the United Kingdom's withdrawal to be intensified, taking into account all possible outcomes."

On foreign policy, we discussed the recent escalation in the Sea of Azov. The European Council is united in the conviction that there is no justification for the use of military force by Russia. Therefore, we request the immediate release of all detained Ukrainian seamen. Russia must not limit the freedom of navigation through the Kerch Strait. While the EU continues to follow developments in the Sea of Azov, we will provide additional assistance to the affected regions.

This evening, Chancellor Merkel and President Macron also presented the state of implementation of the Minsk Agreements, and we decided to renew our economic sanctions against Russia, given that no progress has been made. We also discussed the ongoing preparations for the first EU-League of Arab States summit, to take place next February in Egypt.

[Visit the meeting page](#) [Download as pdf](#)