

**Draft programme****Social security and the “social safety net”  
in farming and impacts on occupational  
safety and health**

**Workshop organised by the SafeHabitus project and hosted by the Committee  
of the Regions**

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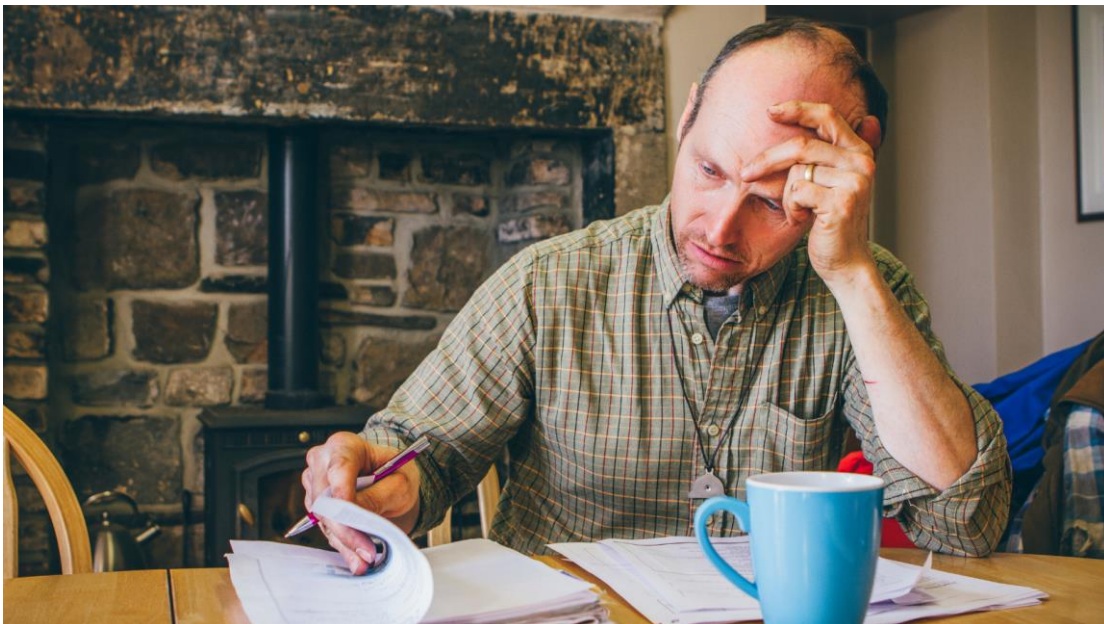
**Date:** 12 March 2025 (14.00 – 17.30)

**Location:** Room JDE 52, Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99, 1040 Brussels

Policy Workshop (PW) in English. Webcast via Teams or Zoom.

[Register here.](#)

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## Objectives of the workshop

SafeHabitus Policy Workshops aim to synthesize the latest and most relevant scientific research and practical insights from a wide variety of stakeholders. We facilitate debate and share perspectives among those actors and European policymakers directly involved on issues related to OSH and social coverage in the sector. By gathering the latest evidence, we seek to provide policymakers with the knowledge and evidence needed to drive positive change and improve working conditions in the sector.

The aim of this seminar is to explore the link between robust social safety net approaches that support improved working conditions for farmers and farm workers. We draw on selected cases from member states of the EU highlighting differences in approach to the organization and delivery of services before providing agriculture and occupational health and safety stakeholders the opportunity to exchange knowledge and perspectives on how working conditions in farming can be improved for all farmers and farm workers.

The seminar is divided into three distinct parts; setting the scene, understanding EU and international approaches, exploring policy and policy options. The scene setting draws on research to present the OSH needs of farmers and farm workers and how these can be supported by social safety nets. Understanding EU and international approaches will present summaries of the different approaches applied in different countries. Exploring policy will provide an opportunity for policy stakeholders to outline current initiatives and explore potential policy options that can support improved working conditions in agriculture.

## Programme

14.00 - 14.25	<p><b>INTRODUCTION</b></p> <p><b>Welcome and introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>David Meredith</b>, TEAGASC (SAFEHABITUS project coordinator)</li> <li>- <b>Karine Gloanec-Maurin</b>, Committee of the Regions member and rapporteur of the CoR Opinion on working conditions in agriculture</li> </ul>
14.25 - 15.25	<p><b>OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE FOR FARMERS IN EUROPE – INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS</b></p> <p><b>Chaired by David Meredith, TEAGASC/SafeHabitus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An international comparison of Occupational Disease and Injury Compensation schemes <b>Secretariat of International Social Security Association, Geneva</b> – tbc –</li> <li>- The role of social safety nets in improving the resilience and attractiveness of farming - <b>Florence A. Becot</b>, National Farm Medicine Center, Penn State, USA</li> <li>- Lessons in Agricultural Health and Safety: A U.S. Perspective <b>Julie Sorensen</b> – North East Center for OHS, USA</li> </ul>
15.25 - 16.15	<p><b>PRACTICE – NATIONAL EXAMPLES OF SOCIAL PROTECTION COVERAGE AND THEIR IMPACT ON OSH FOR FARMERS</b></p> <p><b>Chaired by a member of the NAT Section of the European Economic and Social Committee - tbc</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ENASP overview of specific social protection in countries with agricultural insurance systems, <b>Sarah Öztürk</b>, SVLFG Germany</li> <li>- An overview of the role of Pensions and Social Security in supporting the attractiveness of farming, <b>Anne Kinsella</b>, Teagasc, Ireland.</li> <li>- National GEOPA member: expert on social security provision for farmers</li> </ul>
16.15 - 17.15	<p><b>POLICY DISCUSSION ROUND TABLE – Policy state of play and responses needed to improve the social safety net in agriculture and its impact on OSH</b></p> <p><b>Chaired by Alun Jones, CIHEAM/SafeHabitus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Maria Gafo Gomez-Zamalloa</b>, DG AGRI – The social sustainability of agriculture</li> <li>- <b>Joerg Tagger</b>, DG EMPL (tbc) – Coordination of social security provisions applied to the agriculture sector – with a focus on the self-employed.</li> <li>- EFFAT – General Secretary <b>Enrico Somaglia</b></li> <li>- GEOPA – President <b>Claudia Merlino</b></li> <li>- CEJA – President <b>Peter Meedendorp</b></li> </ul>
17.15 - 17.30	<p><b>CLOSING SESSION</b></p> <p><b>Chair David Meredith</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Synopsis of key policy issues and next steps – <b>Alun Jones</b></li> <li>- Closing remarks – <b>David Meredith</b></li> </ul>





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