



Invitation letter to NEPSI IN ACTION Conference
22 November 2022, Brussels

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are hereby invited to participate on 22 November 2022 in Brussels (NH EU Berlaymont Hotel) in the launching conference of the NEPSI IN ACTION project.

NEPSI is an acronym to designate the Network on Silica. It gathers the signatories of the Social Dialogue "Agreement on Workers' Health Protection Through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products Containing it". Through this Agreement, the signatories commit to lowering exposure to respirable crystalline silica levels through the spreading of Good Practices.

NEPSI actions have benefited from the European Commission's support since the Agreement's signature in 2006.

You will find enclosed the **programme** of the conference. Simultaneous translation will be provided in English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian and Spanish.

Please register your participation through the **following online form by 10 November 2022 at the latest**: <https://form.jotform.com/222784306047052>, specifying if you need a hotel room for the night of 21 November 2022, and if you will claim the reimbursement of your travel costs. The **form and rules for reimbursement** are herewith attached. We will collect your forms during the conference.

We look forward to meeting you in Brussels on this great occasion!

Yours sincerely,

Florence Lumen
EUROSIL/IMA-Europe
NEPSI Council Chair

Sylvain Lefebvre
industriAll European Trade Union
NEPSI Council Chair

NEPSI IN ACTION: Preventing Respirable Crystalline Silica Dust at Work
22 November 2022, 10:00 – 16:30

Bd Charlemagne 11/19, 1000 Brussels
Translation in French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, and Hungarian.
Financially supported by the European Commission

Programme

- 09:30** Welcome coffee.
- 10:00** Welcome address by the European Commission, DG Employment, *Stefan Olsson*.
- 10:15** Introduction by the NEPSI Chairs, *Florence Lumen & Sylvain Lefebvre*.
Launch of the new European Project: "NEPSI IN ACTION" and presentation of the objectives, *Florence Lumen & Sylvain Lefebvre*.
- 10:40** Presentation of the outcomes of the previous NEPSI project:
- Enhancing impact – inclusive engagement: Overview of the communication work to revamp the NEPSI good practice guide and develop a website with all new branded tools, *Lukasz Bochenek* (Leidar).
 - NEPSI guidance for Small and Medium Size Enterprises and new Training tools, *Antigoni Effraimidou* (NEPSI Secretariat).
 - NEPSI Respirable Crystalline Silica measurement protocol, *Remko Houba* (IRAS).
- 12:00** NEPSI 2022 reporting results with the new online system, *Antigoni Effraimidou*.
- 12:30** Lunch.
- 14:00** Two round tables

1. The challenges and needs of small enterprises regarding the prevention of exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica.

Keynote Speech by former EU MEP *Claude Rolin*.

Panel discussion: *Remko Houba* (NKAL, IRAS, NECORD), *Catherine Delfaux* (La Provençale), *Philippe Vigneron* (FGTB), and *Darren Arkins* (tbc) (HSA Ireland, SLIC).

Moderator: *Roger Doome* (IMA-Europe)

15:00 – 15:15 Coffee break.

2. Roundtable on the attractiveness of the NEPSI sectors for future new workers, the young generation's education and training needs, the evolution and innovations of the job.

Keynote speech by *Brenda O'Brien* (EU OSHA).

Panel discussion: *Felix Rohn* (DG EMPL Skills Agenda), *Antonius Johannes Schröder* (TU Dortmund University), *Patrick Bauer* (Pro-GE) and *Christian Dolphin* (Imerys).

Moderator: *Isabelle Barthès* (industriALL).

16:15 Closing remarks by the NEPSI Chairs.



REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FORM

(Please see rules for reimbursement)

To be completed and handed in at the meeting with the relevant invoices

DATE:

MEETING:

NAME:

ORGANISATION:

ADDRESS:

TEL:

E-MAIL:

TRAVEL EXPENSES:

AIR	
TRAIN	
CAR (rate of € 0,4170 per km)	
LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT	
SUBSISTENCE COSTS (max. 50€)	
OTHER	
TOTAL	

BANK:

Bank name:

BIC (SWIFT) code:

IBAN code:

Account holders' name:

Account holders' address:

SIGNATURE:

Rules for reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses

Expenses will only be reimbursed if participants attend the meetings in full.

For **each** meeting, the **reimbursement of expenses form** must be filled in and signed by the participant. The **original return ticket** must be produced during the meeting, and participants must ensure that the **fare** is shown on the tickets or provide the relevant **invoice**.

The **banking data** must be provided on **each** reimbursement of expenses form.

Travel expenses (from the place of origin of the participant to the meeting place) are reimbursed on the following basis:

- For **air travel**, authorised only for a distance over 800 km (400+400) or a journey involving a sea crossing, expenses will be reimbursed based on the most economical fare available at the moment of the invitation and allowing participants to the meeting and travel during the workweek.

Suppose exceptionally, for reasons beyond the control of the participants, seats have to be booked in business class and/or higher rate. In that case, the participants must present a document from the travel agency certifying that no tickets were available in economy class and/or at a lower price. In cases of internet bookings in business class, a screen printout proving that no lower fare was available at the time of the booking must be enclosed with the request for reimbursement.

- The train's expenses will be reimbursed based on the shortest and most economical route in 1st class rail.
- For **cars**, expenses will be reimbursed based on the shortest and most economical route at Euro 0,4170 per km.
- Expenses of people who accompany disabled persons will be paid subject to the current rules.
- No reimbursement is authorised for taxi fares or parking fees. Local transport costs will be reimbursed for **public transport** use (train, bus, tram, metro).

Regarding **subsistence costs**, lunch meals will be provided for all participants at each meeting. A maximum allowance of 50 euros per meal will be reimbursed for the evening dinner on presentation of the relevant invoices.

For the NEPSI conferences, **hotel costs** will be covered (for the night before the meetings) for the participants who have travelled over 100 km. IMA-Europe will book the rooms in the conference's hotel on express request by the participants.

Where the place of origin of the participant is 100 km or less from the place of the meeting, no hotel room will be paid.



Annex:

What is the NEPSI Agreement?

The Social Dialogue "Agreement on Workers' Health Protection Through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products Containing it" (the so-called NEPSI Agreement) was signed sixteen years ago by a diverse group of industries and the unions representing their workforce [see list of the 19 signatories below]. Together, the signatories formed NEPSI, the European Network on Silica, to implement effective protection measures through good practices and closely monitor the application of the Agreement through bi-annual reports of key performance indicators. This is the first European multi-sectoral agreement published in the Official Journal.

The NEPSI Agreement successfully leads to lower levels of exposure to respirable crystalline silica through the spreading of Good Practices. As Commissioner Marianne Thyssen highlighted on the occasion of the Agreement tenth anniversary: "Setting limit values through EU legislation is instrumental in protecting workers' health but it is the quality of implementation and enforcement that will determine whether lives are saved."

NEPSI is recognised in Recital 19 of Directive (EU) 2017/2398 (Amendment of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive at Work) as a *valuable instrument to complement the regulatory requirements and to support their effective implementation*.

The NEPSI Agreement has benefited from the continuous support of the European Commission since its signature in 2006.

See www.nepsi.eu for more information.

List of NEPSI Signatories:

[IndustriAll Europe](#) – European Trade Union

[AStA Worldwide](#) – Association of engineered stones manufacturers

[BIBM](#) – International Bureau for Precast Concrete

[CAEF](#) – European Foundry Association

[CEEMET](#) – European employers' organisation of metal, engineering and technologybased industries

[CEMBUREAU](#) – European Cement Association

[Cerame-Unie](#) – European Ceramic Industry Association

[EMO](#) – European Mortar Organization

[ERMCO](#) – European Ready-Mixed Concrete Organisation

[EURIMA](#) – European Insulation Manufacturers Association

[EUROGYPSUM](#) – European Association of Plaster and Plaster Product Manufacturers

[EUROMINES](#) – European Association of Mining Industries

[EUROROC](#) – European Federation of Natural Stone Industries

[EXCA](#) – European Expanded Clay Association

[ECSPA](#) – European Calcium Silicate Producers Association (voluntary)

[FEVE](#) – European Container Glass Federation

[GlassFibreEurope](#) – European Glass Fibre Producers Association

[Glass for Europe](#) – Trade association for Europe's flat glass sector

[IMA-Europe](#) – European Industrial Minerals Association

[UEPG](#) – European Aggregates Association