



**FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT
ON PREVENTION FROM SHARP INJURIES IN THE HOSPITAL AND HEALTHCARE
SECTOR**

Preamble:

1. Health and safety at work is an issue, which should be important to everyone in the hospital and healthcare sector. Taking action to prevent and protect against unnecessary injuries if properly carried out, will have a positive effect on resources;
2. Health and safety of workers is paramount and is closely linked to the health of patients. This underpins the quality of care;
3. The process of policy making and implementation in relation to medical sharps should be the result of social dialogue;
4. HOSPEEM (*European Hospital and Healthcare Employers' Association*) and EPSU (*European Public Services Union*), the recognized European Social partners in the hospital and healthcare sector, have agreed the following :

General Considerations:

1. Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community and in particular Articles 138 and 139 (2) thereof;
2. Having regard to Council Directive 89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work¹;
3. Having regard to Council Directive 89/655/EEC of 30 November 1989 concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the use of work equipment by workers at work²;
4. Having regard to Directive 2000/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2000 on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work³;
5. Having regard to the Community strategy 2007-2012 on health and safety at work⁴;
6. Having regard to the Directive 2002/14/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2002 establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees in the European Community⁵;

¹ OJ L 183, 29.6.1989. p.1.

² OJ L 393, 30.12.1990. p.13.

³ OJ L 262, 17.10.2000. p.21

⁴ COM(2007) 62 final, 21.2.2007

⁵ OJ L OJ L 80, 23.3.2002, p. 29–34