

Conference Overview

On Thursday 24th and Friday 25th January 2002, the first in a series of eight conferences which form part of the PRISM programme was held in Edinburgh, Scotland. This event was attended by over 60 delegates from 11 EC countries. This event was the first to be hosted by Focus Group 1, which is concerned with cultural and organisational factors which influence safety. The event was opened by Jacques Calzia, EPSC Head of Centre. He welcomed delegates and thanked them for supporting the PRISM programme. The seminar focused on two main topics:

- 1) safety culture and
- 2) the links between teamworking and safety.

Delegates also heard about progress on other main Focus Group 1 topic of behavioural safety, which will form the main content of the next Focus Group 1 seminar in February 2003. The conference ended with a presentation on best practice in employee involvement in health and safety. The format of the conference was designed to encourage discussion and networking between delegates. This was achieved by seating delegates at tables in mixed teams of six, each with a designated facilitator. After each presentation or activity these teams discussed and recorded their

- a) beliefs and / or concerns regarding the topic;
- b) best practice which they can contribute and;
- c) any unmet industry needs.

A review of the delegates' evaluations indicate that this first PRISM seminar was judged a success, with the mixture of research, industry case studies and practical tools and techniques being appreciated, as was the seminar format which ensured focused discussion and networking with other professionals from throughout Europe.