

Statement of Interpretation on Article 3

When examining the biennial reports submitted as part of the third cycle of supervision, the Committee reconsidered the question of whether Article 3 should be regarded as applicable to self-employed workers as well as wage and salary earners. This re-examination led it to confirm, without hesitation, the interpretation giving an affirmative answer to this question for the reasons already put forward (see especially Conclusions II (1971), Statement of Interpretation on Article 3). This interpretation is all the more inescapable because discrimination between employed and self-employed workers as regards safety and health at work would hardly be compatible with current concern to ensure a satisfactory working environment for all workers, especially where employed and self-employed workers were employed on the same work. However, the Committee emphasised that the fact that this article applies to all workers, employed or otherwise, does not mean that the same regulations, supervision machinery, etc should be applied in all cases.