Reviewer’s report

Title: The European Influence on Workers’ Compensation Reform in the United States

Version: 1 Date: 10 August 2011

Reviewer: Laurent Vogel

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Discretionary Revisions

Page 3: the word "federal" is not adequate for most of the EU countries. I suggest "national" or "public"

page 6
The description of "social democracies": I would add "a tradition of strong labour political organizations". The mixture of market and government assistance is not specific to social democracies. It is common in other political traditions (for instance modern Japan...)

page 8
With the exception of Sweden, all the EU countries have a mix between a closed list with a certain number of diseases and an open system.

page 8
I have doubts about the estimation of "three fourths" of the total cost... See reference (15), page 11 where lower figures are indicated. It is very difficult to find out the ratio "compensation of diseases"/total cost of compensation but I feel that it much less than 3/4.

page 9
"Similarly" could be added before the sentence "In France, the list..." In the previous group of countries (Belgium, Italy, etc..., there is also a presumption of cause

page 18
the paragraph "The public health model "could be improved

a) in those countries, occupational medicine specialists intervene at two levels: as labour inspectors (provided by government and/or social security) and as workers of the preventive services (at company level or in services covering different companies). The latter are paid by employers. Usually, inspection is carried out by State labour inspectors; risk assessment and health surveillance are carried out by company (or inter-company) doctors.

b) A complete hazard survey for every workplace is compulsory in all the EU
countries (not only Germany). It is completed with a prevention plan. The legal basis is the EU Framework Directive 391/1989.

There is a list in Finland (Ordinance 1347/88). No list in Sweden.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests