

## **CONFERENCE RESPONSIBILITY IN OCCUPATIONAL RISK PREVENTION**

The ESADE (URL) Law School and the *Fundación Prevent* organised a conference last 10th June dedicated to *Responsibility in Occupational Risk Prevention*. The conference was aimed at director generals and managers, human resource managers, risk prevention managers, risk prevention experts and lawyers, and it was well attended.

Antoni Llorens, President of the *Fundación Prevent*, and Dr. Enric R. Bartlett, Vice-Dean of Continuing Education at the ESADE Law School, were in charge of introducing the conference which consisted of two roundtable discussions after the inaugural address presented by Elisenda Giralt, Director of Territorial Services within the Catalanian Government's Department of Labour. She evaluated the years passed since Law 31/1995 on Occupational Risk Prevention was enacted, the progress made as well as the insufficient knowledge regarding said Law and its application.

The 1<sup>st</sup> roundtable began with a presentation by Luís Huete Pérez, Deputy Prosecutor in the Occupational Accident Division, who provided the Crown Office's position on this matter. This was followed by Jordi Puigbó, an attorney specialised in labour law in the Bufete Cuatrecasas law firm who discussed company responsibility in terms of risk prevention and explored the complex multi-responsibility framework contemplated in said Law.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> table, Josep M<sup>a</sup> Paret, also with the Bufete Cuatrecasas law firm, discussed criminal liability issues with respect to risk prevention. He was critical with expanding Criminal Law to this area, something he deemed excessive. He was followed by Dr. Esther Sánchez, Associate Professor of Labour Law and Social Security in the ESADE Law School, who explored worker responsibility issues in terms of risk prevention. She indicated that while using coercive measures as the only means to resolve these questions was not ideal, she felt that, without coercion, the learning process could not begin, thus the importance of creating specific regulations in this area. Eduardo Saavedra, Judge in the Tarragona Court for Contentious Administrative Proceedings, ended the conference with an examination of the new court doctrine on individuals, emphasising the subject of surcharge.

The morning ended with a brief colloquium.

This conference was made possible with collaboration from the Government of Catalonia's Department of Labour, Bankpime, Bufete Cuatrecasas, Edipe Catalunya, Gaceta de los Negocios and Tribunal TV.