



CARABINIERI COMMAND FOR PROTECTION OF LABOUR

Since 1934 personnel from Arma dei Carabinieri corps has been assigned to Ministry of labour for the vigilance on the application of labour legislation. This field of activity is traditionally one of the Carabinieri sectors of specialization, in the framework of the Italian system of Public security.

Nowadays the Carabinieri Command for the Protection of labour, which is a unit of the Carabinieri Special Organization, operates under the functional dependence of Ministry of Labour; its highly - professional personnel is tasked of the surveillance on the application of labour legislation and social security within industrial and commercial firms, offices, farms, and, broadly, where it is foreseen paid work.

In particular, sectors of activities, generally aimed to implement social solidarity, are the suppression of abuses, the control of working conditions and protection of security and health of workers, especially of those in vulnerable conditions, such as foreigners, minors, etc. The main task is naturally the fight against illegal, concealed employment and sweat labour, as well as against every type of human exploitation, frequently related to favouring illegal immigration, trafficking in human beings and reduction in slavery. Also frauds (against workers' rights, against the state in illegally deducting contributions and in perceiving EU and public funds under false allegations - the latter often linked to organized crime groups) are an important field of activity.

The personnel, after a specific course, is given the qualification of Labour Inspectors, which is necessary to develop control activities in this sector, together with that of Agent and Officer of Judiciary Police.

The operations are carried out autonomously, or to support Carabinieri territorial units or also other authorities (mainly Labour inspectorates) or Police Forces in enforcing labour legislation.

The Command is composed by a Commander, a central Operational Unit (which carries out investigation, analysis and coordination activity) and 102 local groups (at District level, aside the Provincial Labour Directions).

The activity of the Command is not only related to monitoring, preventing and suppressing violations of labour and social security legislation; it is also involved in carrying out analysis and studies in the field of economy and labour market, individuating alterations and negative trends, and also providing workers with legal advice in order to address them to the relevant public services.

In 2005 the Command carried out more than 24.500 firms inspections (128.000 workers), reporting to the judicial authority more than 10.000 persons (188 arrested, mainly for crimes linked to labour exploitation of third- national illegal immigrants).

In the Operation "**Marco Polo**", carried out in 2005 at national level to monitor and control firms owned by Chinese businessmen, more than 90 persons have been arrested for offences related to exploitation of illegal immigrants' work (among them some for reduction in slavery).

At international level, the Command is involved in cooperation projects, also financed by EU, with international organizations and ministries of interior and labour, in the field of capacity building, training and mentoring of inspection and law enforcement unities.