

**Question for written answer E-003950/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)

Subject: Application of Directive 2003/88/EC on working time to security and rescue services

Directive 2003/88/EC on working time, as interpreted by recent case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, is applied extensively, including to members of fire brigades, police forces and the armed forces in several of the Member States. This creates considerable difficulties, as the inclusion of on-call duty within working time undermines traditional and proven operational models of security and rescue services, which require permanent readiness and flexibility. In the current context of increasing global security challenges, terrorism, hybrid threats and natural disasters, such an interpretation risks weakening the crisis-response capacity of both the Member States and the EU as a whole.

In the light of the above:

1. How does the Commission evaluate the impact of the current interpretation of Directive 2003/88/EC on the operational readiness of firefighters, police officers and members of the armed forces?
2. Does the Commission intend to adopt implementing acts or specific derogations to ensure that security and rescue services can maintain continuous readiness without breaching the Directive?
3. If no amendment is envisaged, how will the Commission provide legal clarity and flexibility to the Member States to ensure that the application of the Directive does not jeopardise public safety and effective crisis management?

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