

**Question for written answer E-000403/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: 'Violanta' factory in Trikala - an 'accident' waiting to happen due to employer's criminality

On 26 January, an explosion and fire at the 'Violanta' factory in Trikala led to the death of five workers and caused serious injuries to their colleagues, rounding off the 'black list' of deaths (201) in the workplace in 2025.

Another employer crime that reveals that daily wages are earned in dangerous conditions, without safety measures and controls, and with intensification of work based solely on maximising the profitability of business groups.

What is the Commission's position concerning the fact that:

1. the 'minimum safety requirements' of EU Directives (2003/88/EC, 2019/1152/EU and 2019/1158/EU) are a breeding ground for and help to proliferate employment crimes¹?
2. the transformation of the Labour Inspection Body into an 'independent authority' along the lines of the 'European Labour Authority' has led to understaffing of the inspection mechanism, a reduction in substantive inspections in the workplace, and increased employer impunity?
3. The Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EU) for addressing the risks of major industrial accidents promotes the model of 'self-inspection' by enterprises in the name of 'due diligence', through internal risk assessments without mandatory substantive State inspections, resulting in the protection of the health and life of workers becoming a formality, with business groups undertaking the 'control' and 'reporting' of their own violations, which constitutes a literal mockery and puts workers at risk?

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¹ 11 consecutive hours of daily rest are provided for in the anti-worker Directive 2003/88/EC, which legalises working up to 13 consecutive hours, while Directives 2019/1152/EU and 2019/1158/EU serve as an alibi for the proliferation of flexible forms of employment and the further undermining of collective labour agreements.