

**Question for written answer E-001848/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: Labour inspection: Now even more favourable to big business and its unaccountability

The Greek Government (N.5297/2026¹) and the EU recently passed a law promoting a commercialised labour inspection system that is even friendlier towards big business and its unaccountability.

By focusing on business profitability it will never fulfil its duty of protecting the lives and safety of workers.

In view of the above, where does the Commission stand on the following:

1. The fact that the guidelines for ‘simplification’ in the name of competitiveness and the reduction of the ‘administrative burden’ lead to employers being informed in advance about inspections, as well as to additional obstacles which hinder inspectors from carrying out their work, the involvement of private individuals against even the 81st Labour Inspection Convention and the dismantling of required health and safety measures, putting workers’ lives at risk?
2. The fact that employers’ so-called self-compliance and staff cuts in inspection systems – practices which are based on the strategy of ‘independent’ authorities and mechanisms such as the European Labour Authority, and which are being implemented by the governments of the Member States – are contributing to a surge in the number of accidents at work and instances of criminal negligence by employers?
3. The fact that in the name of competitiveness and the ‘flexibility’ of the 13-hour working day, which only gives workers 11 hours of rest between shifts, as required by EU directives, intensification of work is escalating, retirement age is rising, pensioners are returning to work, the employment of minors is increasing, and explosive conditions are being created, leading to a systematic deterioration in the protection of workers’ lives and health, resulting in an increase in accidents at work and fatal incidents at work?

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¹ <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-epikheireseis/nomos-5297-2026.html>.