

**Question for written answer E-001915/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: European framework for protecting firefighters from cancer

The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified the occupational exposure of firefighters as Group 1 carcinogenic to humans.

According to scientific evidence and firefighters' associations, firefighters are systematically exposed to benzene, dioxins, PFAS, formaldehyde, heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and other toxic combustion products, often through long-term and cumulative exposure.

This exposure has been associated with an increased risk of leukaemia, Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphomas, lung, kidney, bladder and mesothelioma cancers.

In addition, several Member States have already recognised specific types of cancer as occupational diseases of firefighters or are considering relevant legislative initiatives. European trade unions are also calling for a strengthening of the EU framework for the prevention of and protection against occupational cancers.

1. Does the Commission consider that current EU legislation on health and safety at work provides adequate protection for firefighters against cumulative exposure to carcinogens?
2. Will the Commission consider European guidelines on identifying occupational cancers in firefighters and monitoring their health long-term?
3. Will the Commission consider further restrictions on PFAS in fire-fighting foams and related equipment under the REACH Regulation?

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