

Question for written answer E-002599/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Mika Aaltola (PPE)

Subject: Personal protective equipment for rescue and emergency services

We are writing to the Commission regarding an existing gap in EU rules on personal protective equipment (PPE).

Article 2(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2016/425 provides a derogation for PPE that is specifically designed for use by the armed forces and law enforcement. However, this derogation does not extend to rescue and emergency services.

We believe that the current framework should be reviewed to ensure that it adequately reflects the operational realities faced by rescue and emergency services.

Lessons from the conflict in Ukraine have provided evidence that rescue workers and emergency responders face threats comparable to those encountered by armed forces and law enforcement personnel.

The current regulatory gap impedes Member States' ability to acquire and stockpile appropriate protective equipment for rescue services.

In particular, we would welcome clarification from the Commission on the following points:

1. Is the Commission aware of this regulatory gap and has it undertaken any assessment of its impact on the preparedness of rescue and emergency services in Member States?
2. Does the Commission intend to put forward a proposal to amend Regulation (EU) 2016/425 and extend the existing derogation to include PPE that is specifically designed for use by rescue and emergency services?

Supporters¹

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