

Question for written answer E-003013/2026

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Fatal accidents at work as a result of the heatwave

Throughout Europe, records for high temperatures are being broken time and again, and many people are feeling the severe effects of the heat. It is a particular problem for those who have to work in the heat. Figures from the European Trade Union Confederation show that the number of deaths in European workplaces is rising in line with the increase in temperatures. Accidents at work increase by 7% when the temperature exceeds 30 degrees and by 15% at temperatures over 38 degrees. The Commission has adopted a ‘vision zero’ approach to work-related deaths. This is a central plank of the EU’s strategic framework on health and safety at work for 2021-2027, which aims to eliminate fatal accidents at work in the EU.

1. How is the Commission’s work on vision zero affected by the fact that more people are now dying at work in these hotter conditions?
2. What specific measures is the Commission taking to ensure that Member States achieve vision zero now that deaths are on the increase with extreme temperatures of over 38 degrees?
3. This is not a short-term problem: it will continue to get worse as greenhouse gas emissions change our climate. What is the Commission doing to ensure that Member States make efforts not only to cut emissions but also to mitigate the consequences of a hotter climate?

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