

**Question for written answer E-003861/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Anthony Smith (The Left)

Subject: Defective safety helmets and worker protection

The JACOP 2025 campaign on safety helmets for professional use reveals that 19 of the 65 products examined failed at least one technical test. Thirteen – 20% – did not meet the impact-absorption requirements. The failures were observed following various storage conditions, with the report noting that they occurred particularly frequently after exposure to high or low temperatures.

These findings come at a time when the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work is warning that workers are being increasingly exposed to extreme heat and other major climate-related risks. In 2023 workplace accidents claimed the lives of 3 298 workers across the EU, nearly a quarter of whom were in the construction sector.

Can the Commission therefore say:

1. Whether it intends to strengthen the requirements and testing protocols applicable to professional personal protective equipment to ensure its effectiveness in conditions of extreme temperatures, which have become more frequent as a result of climate change?
2. Given the findings of JACOP 2025, how could the Commission help tighten up inspections, expedite the removal of personal protective equipment posing a serious or high risk, and ensure its traceability?
3. Whether it intends, as part of the forthcoming legislation on quality jobs, to improve coordination between, and increase the staffing levels of, national inspectorates with a view to the more effective enforcement of rules on personal protective equipment and the protection of workers exposed to extreme temperatures?

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