

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001555/24
to the Commission
Virginie Joron (PFE)
(27 August 2024)**

Subject: Who is investigating the 808 392 excess deaths that occurred in 2022?

According to a study published in the *British Medical Journal*, in 2022, when most containment measures had been lifted and COVID-19 ‘vaccinations’ were continuing, there were 808 392 excess deaths ⁽¹⁾ in Western countries ⁽²⁾, with a P-score of 8.8% ⁽³⁾, i.e. approximately a 1 in 10 chance that this discrepancy was coincidental.

The authors identified, in particular, a high number of excess deaths caused by heart disease, diabetes and Alzheimer’s. ‘Government leaders and policymakers need to thoroughly investigate underlying causes of persistent excess mortality and evaluate their health crisis policies.’

In France, 675 335 people died in 2022, compared with 613 456 in 2019 (an increase of 61 879) and 638 266 in 2023 (24 810 more than in 2019) ⁽⁴⁾.

1. Has the Commission — or its public health agencies — also identified excess deaths caused by heart disease, diabetes, cancer or Alzheimer’s in 2022?
2. Has it undertaken research to identify and quantify the underlying causes of this persistent excess mortality in Europe in 2022?

Submitted: 27.8.2024

**Answer given by Ms Kyriakides on behalf of the European Commission
(21 October 2024)**

Data on excess mortality in EU/EEA (European Economic Area) countries is collected in the context of the EuroMOMO project and by the European Statistical Office (ESTAT).

EuroMOMO is a European mortality monitoring activity based on overall mortality, but not cause-specific, aiming to detect and measure excess deaths related to seasonal influenza, pandemics and other public health threats, supported by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), and hosted by Statens Serum Institut, Denmark ⁽¹⁾.

ESTAT publishes an excess mortality indicator, which is based on data from National Statistical Institutes on weekly deaths on a voluntary basis since April 2020 ⁽²⁾.

In the years 2020-2023, the excess deaths rates correlate with the COVID-19 waves and are inversely correlated with vaccination coverage, as highlighted by the WHO ⁽³⁾.

The Commission supports ongoing studies on post-COVID and its link to various disease outcomes, such as heart disease, diabetes, cancers, or neural dysfunctions ⁽⁴⁾.

The Commission would like to emphasise the known methodological problems ⁽⁵⁾ of the British Medical Journal (BMJ) paper ⁽⁶⁾, on which the parliamentary question is based.

The BMJ alerts its readers to misreporting and misunderstanding of this study ⁽⁷⁾, as it does not establish any direct causal link between COVID-19 vaccination and mortality.

The researchers looked only at trends in excess mortality over time, not its causes. The academic institution of three of the four authors has distanced itself from this publication ⁽⁸⁾.

¹ Reference period: 2015-2019.

² EU + UK, the United States and Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

³ <https://bmjpublichealth.bmj.com/content/bmjph/2/1/e000282.full.pdf>.

⁴ <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/6959520>

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.euromomo.eu/>

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?oldid=509982#Recent_data_on_excess_mortality_in_the_EU

⁽³⁾ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-05522-2>

⁽⁴⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/health/coronavirus_en

⁽⁵⁾ <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19/commentary-misleading-bmj-public-health-paper-covid-19-excess-mortality-needs-be-retracted>

⁽⁶⁾ <https://bmjpublichealth.bmj.com/content/bmjph/2/1/e000282.full.pdf>

⁽⁷⁾ <https://bmjpublichealth.bmj.com/content/2/1/e000282eoc>

⁽⁸⁾ <https://www.prinsesmaximacentrum.nl/en/news-events/news/the-princess-maxima-center-distances-itself-from-publication-excess-mortality-during-covid-19-pandemic>

A critical discussion on tracking excess mortality across countries during the COVID-19 pandemic with the World Mortality Dataset was published in 2021 ⁽⁹⁾.

⁽⁹⁾ <https://elifesciences.org/articles/69336>