(English version)

Question for written answer E-000645/25
to the Commission
César Luena (S&D)
(12 February 2025)

Subject: The impact of climate change on deaths from heat and cold in European cities

A new article published in *Nature Medicine* magazine ([1]), based on an in-depth study of 854 European cities, provides clear evidence that net mortality in Europe will increase even in the most benign climate change scenario. The assessments show that the net burden on health will increase substantially in scenarios involving extreme warming, and that this trend can only be reversed by bringing in adaptation measures on a massive scale in urban communities.

Bearing in mind that the study emphasises the importance of adaptation to heat:

1. How is the Commission intending to incorporate more robust adaptation measures into the EU's strategy on adaptation to climate change, in particular with regard to urban communities and the most vulnerable age groups?

2. Will the Commission be addressing this increasing risk to public health specifically in EU climate legislation?

3. Given the regional disparities where the projected impact of climate change is concerned, with the most serious net effects in southern Europe, is the Commission planning to address this inequality as regards vulnerability to climate change in its next proposal for a multiannual financial framework?

Submitted: 12.2.2025

Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(11 April 2025)

1. The Commission shares the concern of the Honourable Member. Already in March 2024, the European Climate Risk Assessment has ranked heat stress as an urgent risk to act on ([1]). Complementing the measures included in the 2021 EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change to protect communities from the urban heat island effect ([2]), the Commission Communication on managing climate risks from 2024 ([3]) announced additional action to protect workers from heat stress. The ongoing development of a European Climate Adaptation Plan provides now another opportunity to better protect local communities from growing heat stress through further and more ambitious EU action.

2. The Commission will consider future legislation on climate resilience and preparedness as part of the European Climate Adaptation Plan, which is expected to be adopted during the second half of 2026. However, the need for new legislation, and whether it would need to address public health risks specifically, can only be determined during the related Impact Assessment process and following consultations with Parliament, the Member States and other stakeholders.

3. The recent Commission Communication on the road to the next multiannual financial framework recognises that preparing for growing climate risks will need to be an overarching objective for EU action under the next EU budget, which will also play a central role in promoting social and territorial cohesion in the EU ([4]).

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[1] [1]https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-024-03452-2.
([1]) https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/european-climate-risk-assessment
([2]) COM(2021) 82 final.
([3]) COM(2024) 91 final.
([4]) COM(2025) 46 final.