

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002064/25
to the Commission
Anthony Smith (The Left)
(22 May 2025)**

Subject: Labour inspectorate staff in Europe

Labour inspectorate staff in Europe are in a dire situation.

The Court of Auditors in France has reported that 16% of labour inspector positions were cut between 2016 and 2021. The country has only around 1 700 labour inspectors left, with more than 20 million employees to protect and roughly two million businesses to inspect.

Despite this, the Ministry of Labour is planning to slash the number of labour inspector posts open for recruitment — only 45 for 2025.

While the International Labour Organisation recommends a one labour inspector per 10 000 employees, in practice the ratio is often one inspector to more than 15 000 employees.

Many Member States are in similar situations. This state of affairs makes it impossible to transpose EU legislation.

1. Does the Commission intend to ensure Member States comply with international labour inspection obligations, particularly so as to check EU rules are transposed?
2. Does the Commission intend to ensure Member States implement the Commission's objective of 'zero deaths' by 2030?

Submitted: 22.5.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(1 July 2025)**

The enforcement of national legislation transposing EU health and safety at work Directives is a competence that falls primarily under the responsibility of the national competent authorities.

It is up to Member States to identify and allocate the resources needed for such activity. The Commission's Senior Labour Inspectors' Committee as well as the European Labour Authority assist the Member States with the enforcement of the EU legislation (Occupational Safety and Health at work (OSH) and labour mobility respectively).

The Commission places great importance on the Vision Zero approach on work-related deaths but it did not set a deadline in that respect. The EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027 ⁽¹⁾ set ambitious objectives to further improve OSH in the EU.

It also states in its Section 2.2 that 'all efforts must be deployed to reduce work-related deaths as much as possible, in line with a Vision Zero approach to work-related deaths in the EU'.

In addition, a dedicated Working Party of the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work has adopted in 2022 an opinion ⁽²⁾ on 'Actions to improve prevention of work-related accidents and illnesses in line with a vision zero approach', including several relevant recommendations.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0323>.

⁽²⁾ <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/cb9293be-4563-4f19-89cf-4c4588bd6541/library/6dd45935-308c-4ed4-bc88-7fb4471af27a/details>.