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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(28.1.2026)

Council Directive 89/391/EEC¹, which applies to all sectors of activity, both public and private, imposes on employers the duty to ensure the safety and health of workers in every aspect related to the work. In this context, employers are required to identify and assess all risks, physical and psychosocial, to their workers' health and safety at work, and to take, within the context of their responsibilities, the measures necessary for the safety and health protection of workers. This includes any risks linked to incidents of assault on healthcare workers.

Among the preventive and protective measures that must be implemented by employers for the above purpose are the provision to workers of all the necessary information concerning the safety and health risks that they face and the protective and preventive measures and activities implemented to address them, as well as of adequate safety and health training. The Commission will continue its efforts in cooperation with the Member States to ensure the effective application and enforcement of these provisions.

While the Commission at this stage does not intend to establish a system to monitor attacks on health workers, it has supported, under an EU4Health-funded action, the European Mental Health or Nurses and Doctors survey (MeND)², which provided data on workplace conditions affecting mental health and well-being of health professionals, including exposure to violence at work. As part of an EUR 11 million contribution agreement with the World Health Organization, this action will also provide further capacity-building support to Member States to improve the mental health of health workers.

¹ Council Directive 89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work (OJ L 183 29.6.1989, p. 1) - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01989L0391-20081211>.

² <https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/WHO-EURO-2025-12709-52483-81031>.