

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004526/25
to the Commission
Moritz Körner (Renew)
(13 November 2025)**

Subject: Heat-related deaths

1. How many heat-related deaths have been recorded annually in the EU and in the United States over the past five years?
2. How does the Commission explain the difference in the number or rate of such deaths between the EU and the United States?
3. What measures does the Commission consider necessary to reduce heat-related mortality within the EU, particularly in the light of climate change and the availability of air-conditioning?

Submitted: 13.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(5 March 2026)**

1. Not all EU Member States are recording heat-related excess mortality, and current national recording systems use different methods ⁽¹⁾. There is thus at present no complete and reliable official record of heat-related deaths for the EU overall. Researchers estimate that up to 70 000 people in Europe died from heat in 2022, and just under 48 000 in 2023 ⁽²⁾.

The Commission does not collect or provide data on heat-related excess mortality in the United States. It is for the US authorities to determine whether and how to do so.

2. The currently available information does not allow a robust comparison, let alone an explanation, of the differences in heat-related excess mortality in the EU and the US.

3. Air conditioning is increasingly important for maintaining thermal comfort, safety and productivity in a fast-warming world. However, the Commission also supports and enforces a range of additional measures which are needed to protect all vulnerable groups efficiently and effectively.

These include passive cooling techniques in buildings ⁽³⁾; urban planning to minimise local heat islands ⁽⁴⁾; the preparation of national heat health action plans ⁽⁵⁾; employers' duties to protect workers from high workplace temperatures set in several EU Directives ⁽⁶⁾; guidance and online tools for employers and workplaces ⁽⁷⁾; improving heat health surveillance and preparedness, and sharing know-how ⁽⁸⁾; and improving Member State and EU prevention, preparedness and response planning under the regulation on Serious Cross-Border Threats to Health ⁽⁹⁾.

From a longer-term perspective, it is also worth mentioning that the Commission will present, during the 4th quarter of 2026, a new European framework for strengthening climate resilience and adaptation to climate change ⁽¹⁰⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/observatory/topics/health-impacts/heat-and-health/2024-heat-mortality-technical-background-document.pdf>.

⁽²⁾ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/observatory/topics/health-impacts/heat-and-health>.

⁽³⁾ <https://build-up.ec.europa.eu/en/resources-and-tools/articles/passive-cooling-can-we-cool-buildings-low-no-energy-consumption>.

⁽⁴⁾ For instance <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/knowledge/tools/urban-ast>, <https://hrc-hitzetool.ioer.info>

⁽⁵⁾ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/observatory/policy/national-policies/heat-health-action-plans>.

⁽⁶⁾ Council Directive 89/391/EEC, Council Directive 89/654/EEC, Council Directive 93/103/EC, Council Directive 92/104/EEC, Council Directive 92/91/EEC.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://osha.europa.eu/en/highlights/heat-work-preventing-illness-and-protecting-workers>.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/observatory/topics/health-impacts/heat-and-health>.

⁽⁹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2371.

⁽¹⁰⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14770-European-climate-resilience-and-risk-management-integrated-framework_en.