

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004660/25
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(21 November 2025)**

Subject: Unexplained increase in sudden deaths and cardiac events

Over the last three years, there has been a significant increase in overall mortality in our country, with the Hellenic Statistical Authority reporting a 9.8% increase in 2021 compared to 2020. At the same time, the number of cases of sudden deaths — even in young, healthy and active citizens — is a cause for concern. Scientific studies indicate that approximately 90% of sudden deaths have cardiac-related causes, while increased cases of myocarditis and thrombosis have been recorded internationally after COVID-19 infection or vaccination, a fact that is fuelling public debate.

In our country, the Air Force has already established a special committee to investigate sudden deaths in its units. In the US, medically reported illnesses among pilots increased by 1 700% between 2019 and 2022, a development attributed by the Pentagon mainly to COVID-19 cases. In any event, the data demonstrate the need for a full, transparent and scientific investigation into the causes.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission assess the increase in sudden deaths and what measures does it intend to take to investigate the causes promptly and transparently at EU level?
2. Does the Commission intend to examine possible associations with heart disease, COVID-19 infections or adverse reactions to vaccines systematically, based on updated epidemiological data?
3. What preventive measures does the Commission intend to propose, in particular for Member States facing demographic decline and increased mortality?

Submitted: 21.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(26 January 2026)**

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) carefully reviews all safety data and confirms that there is no evidence of an increase in deaths related to COVID-19 vaccination in any age group.

The EMA and Member States continuously analyse data in Eudravigilance (EV) ⁽¹⁾ so that unexpected patterns can be identified. Anyone can report events to EV, even if it is not clear whether a vaccine caused the problem. Causality can only be established after review of all relevant data and after ruling out other coinciding medical events.

When millions of people are vaccinated, it is likely that some will coincidentally experience an illness or even die in the days or weeks following vaccination.

In most cases, these events would have happened if people had not been vaccinated, especially in the elderly and in people with pre-existing, known or undiagnosed medical conditions.

Data published by Eurostat have shown increased numbers of excess deaths in many EU countries over the past years. This largely coincided with waves of increased COVID-19 infections. COVID-19 infection can lead to serious health problems, e.g. heart attack and stroke, even several weeks or months after infection.

Cases of sudden cardiac death after COVID-19 vaccination are not suspected to be caused by COVID-19 vaccines; sudden cardiac death events after vaccination are reviewed via routine pharmacovigilance.

To date, no safety concern has been raised based on the available data. Myocarditis and pericarditis are very rare side effects of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

Studies have shown that cases of myocarditis after a COVID-19 infection are more common and more severe than cases occurring after vaccination ⁽²⁾, ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ EudraVigilance <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory-overview/research-development/pharmacovigilance-research-development/eudravigilance>.

⁽²⁾ Block et al. 2022: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7114e1.htm>.

⁽³⁾ Husby et al. 2023: <https://bmjmedicine.bmj.com/content/2/1/e000373>.