

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000229/26
to the Commission
Valentina Palmisano (The Left), Mario Furore (The Left), Dario Tamburrano (The Left)
(21 January 2026)**

Subject: Fatal workplace accident at the Acciaierie d'Italia Taranto steelworks and compliance with EU health and safety rules

On 12 January 2026, an accident occurred at the Acciaierie d'Italia (formerly Ilva Srl) steelworks during an inspection of Mill No 2, resulting in the death of an employee. The incident, which is currently being investigated, has resulted in yet another court-ordered closure of part of the steelworks and brought the plant's health and safety issues back to the fore.

The many accidents that have occurred at the Taranto steelworks are proof that the facility cannot enforce minimum safety standards. Acciaierie d'Italia are also at odds with a CJEU ruling (Case C-626/22) which stated that, were operations found to constitute a serious threat to either public health or the environment, the plant would have to shut down until it could demonstrate compliance with minimum EU standards.

In addition, Framework Directive 89/391/EEC requires employers to protect the health and safety of workers by means of the risk assessments and preventive measures set out by Directives 89/654/EEC and 92/58/EEC.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of the flawed way in which large coal-fired plants like the Taranto steelworks are implementing EU standards?
2. What tools is the Commission planning to use to monitor these facilities' compliance with EU rules and has the Commission launched an inquiry in conjunction with the Italian authorities into this state of affairs?
3. Will the Commission promote legislative and non-legislative initiatives with a view to preventing fatal accidents and ensuring the effective implementation of all CJEU judgments, including the ruling in Case C 626/22?

Submitted: 21.1.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(18 March 2026)**

1. The Commission did not have elements pointing to breaches of EU occupational safety and health (OSH) directives in the coal-fired plants like the Taranto steelworks when it launched an infringement procedure linked to the Taranto steelworks plant with regard to Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions ⁽¹⁾.
2. As regards workers' protection, Member States must transpose EU OSH directives into their national legislation. The primary responsibility for properly enforcing national legislation transposing EU directives lies with relevant national authorities ⁽²⁾.
3. The imperative to further decrease OSH related fatalities, accidents and ill health remains a key objective under the current EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2021-2027 ⁽³⁾, that builds on previous strategies that have seen substantial improvements in occupational safety and health.

The Commission ensures that Member States apply rulings from the Court of Justice of the EU through a structured enforcement process primarily governed by Article 260 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. An infringement procedure is ongoing since 2013 on Italy's failure to fully and correctly transpose and implement Directive 2010/75/EU as interpreted by the Court of Justice in Case C-626/22 ⁽⁴⁾, and on its failure to ensure that the Taranto plant operates in compliance with that directive. In this context, the Commission sent an additional letter of formal notice to Italy on 7 May 2025 ⁽⁵⁾ to which Italy has replied on 4 July and 4 September 2025. The Commission is currently assessing these replies.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial and livestock rearing emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control), OJ L 334, 17.12.2010, p. 17-119, as amended by Directive (EU) 2024/1785 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 April 2024 OJ L, 2024/1785, 15.7.2024.

⁽²⁾ Relevant inspectorates or equivalent bodies.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0323&qid=1626089672913#PP1Contents>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:62022CJ0626>.

⁽⁵⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/inf_25_982#_blank.