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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.4.2026)

The EU legislation on occupational safety and health (OSH), aims at preventing all work-related accidents and diseases. EU OSH Directives lay down minimum requirements and Member States may adopt more stringent measures. Among others, the EU OSH Framework Directive 89/391/EEC¹ sets out the general obligations for employers, who are required to assess all risks at work and to take appropriate preventive and protective measures.

While enforcement of national provisions transposing EU Directives in the field of OSH, including labour inspections and control mechanisms, is primarily the responsibility of Member States, the Commission promotes better and equivalent enforcement with an aim of achieving zero deaths at work, through actions taken by the Senior Labour Inspectors' Committee.

The Commission (Eurostat) collects statistics on accidents at work² and occupational diseases³ reported by Member States' statistical authorities. Data quality, including under-reporting, is regularly reviewed by relevant Commission expert groups. This includes refining methodologies, analysing coverage and comparability, and encouraging more consistent reporting practices across Member States.

Vision Zero, referred to in the EU Strategic Framework for Health and Safety at Work 2021 – 2027⁴, is the overall aim to achieve zero work-related deaths, calling on all relevant actors to take appropriate measures. However, this approach – while beneficial – is legally not binding.

¹ OJ L 183, 29.6.1989, p. 1: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01989L0391-20081211>.

² Data collection implemented by the Commission Regulation (EU) No 349/2011 of 11 April 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work, as regards statistics on accidents at work.

³ European occupational diseases statistics - <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/experimental-statistics/european-occupational-diseases-statistics>.

⁴ <https://osha.europa.eu/en/safety-and-health-legislation/eu-strategic-framework-health-and-safety-work-2021-2027>.