

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000743/26
to the Commission
Nikos Pappas (The Left)
(23 February 2026)**

Subject: Industrial safety and implementation of EU law following the deadly explosion at a ‘Violanta’ factory in Trikala

The deadly explosion at a Violanta S.A. factory in Trikala, Greece — which resulted in the loss of human life and revealed failures in propane management and prevention mechanisms — has cast doubts over compliance with the national and EU industrial safety framework.

Directive 2012/18/EU (SEVESO III — prevention of major industrial accidents), Directive 89/391/EEC (framework for health and safety at work), Directive 98/24/EC (chemical agents), Directive 1999/92/EC (ATEX — explosive atmospheres) and Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH — chemicals), read in conjunction with Article 2 TEU and Articles 151 to 153 TFEU, guarantee a high level of protection of the health and safety of workers. Article 258 TFEU gives the Commission the power to monitor and initiate infringement proceedings. EU acts must be fully incorporated into Greek law and implemented effectively.

Can the Commission say:

1. What information does it have on the frequency, quality and independence of inspections at facilities that, in line with the requirements of Directive 2012/18/EU, fall within the scope thereof, and how does it assess Greece’s compliance with the obligations for regular checks and updated safety studies?
2. Does it intend to strengthen EU oversight and transparency mechanisms and request an updated compliance report from the Greek authorities?
3. In the context of Article 258 TFEU, how does it ensure the correct and full implementation of the framework?

Submitted: 23.2.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(7 May 2026)**

The Seveso III Directive ⁽¹⁾ covers establishments where dangerous substances may be present in quantities exceeding certain thresholds.

Member States have to ensure that their operators take all necessary measures to prevent major accidents and to limit their consequences for human health and the environment ⁽²⁾.

They must prove, at any time, that they have taken these measures, in particular for the purpose of inspections, which Member States have to perform ⁽³⁾. Based on the information at the disposal of the Commission, such requirements do not apply to the concerned factory ⁽⁴⁾.

In 2023, Greece reported on its implementation of the Seveso III Directive for 2019-2022 ⁽⁵⁾ and indicated that 232 inspections were carried out for Seveso establishments during the reporting period ⁽⁶⁾, also highlighting that the implementation of inspections was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic ⁽⁷⁾.

The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Directives ⁽⁸⁾ set minimum requirements for the health and safety protection of workers, requiring employers to evaluate all occupational risks and to put in place preventive and protective measures.

Members States have a primary responsibility to monitor the application of these legal provisions and to take the necessary steps for enforcement.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directive 96/82/EC, OJ L 197, 24.7.2012, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Article 5 of the Seveso III Directive.

⁽³⁾ Article 20 of the Seveso III Directive.

⁽⁴⁾ This factory has indeed not been reported by the Greek authorities as being covered by the Seveso III Directive.

⁽⁵⁾ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation and efficient functioning of Directive 2012/18/EU on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances for the period 2019-2022, COM/2025/508 final.

⁽⁶⁾ 104 visits were carried out for upper-tier establishments and 128 visits for lower-tier establishments.

⁽⁷⁾ The next reporting on the implementation of the directive is planned in 2027 for the period 2023-2026.

⁽⁸⁾ Directive 89/391/EEC 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, Directive 2004/37/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens, mutagens or reprotoxic substances at work (CMRD), OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, p 50, Council Directive 98/24/EC of 7 April 1998 on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work (fourteenth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC), OJ L 131, 5.5.1998, p. 11.

The Commission, as guardian of the Treaties, monitors the situation and may decide to take appropriate action. It aims to follow up swiftly on systemic issues involving the application of EU law ⁽⁹⁾ in EU countries.

However, one-off instances are better addressed at national level, provided there are available remedies, including judicial ones. In such cases, it is up to the national courts to apply and enforce citizens' rights under EU law.

⁽⁹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/law/application-eu-law/implementing-eu-law/infringement-procedure_en.