

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002879/26
to the Commission
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)
(13 July 2026)**

Subject: Explosion in Aspropyrgos injures 11 people — another warning sign of a large-scale industrial accident

Eleven people in the hospital, some with very severe burns — this is the result of an explosion and fire that took place at a scrap metal plant in Aspropyrgos, Attica. Thousands of local residents live with the risk of inhaling dangerous substances, as they share their neighbourhood with refineries, LPG plants and other such sites.

This incident is the latest in a long series of fires at industrial facilities — an issue that residents and organisations have repeatedly raised — yet no protection measures have been put in place, as they are regarded as a cost by business groups.

The EU and the Nea Demokratia Government, like its predecessors, have left ordinary people in the region unprotected, refusing to implement basic protective measures and to draw up a comprehensive plan to prevent and respond to a potential large-scale industrial accident.

With this in mind, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What view does it take of the fact that, although the risks of a large-scale industrial accident in Western Attica have been repeatedly highlighted and that accidents continue to occur, no response plan has been drawn up, even though the Thriasio Plain area is home to many industrial facilities that fall under the provisions of the Seveso Directive?
2. What view does it take of the fact that, under the Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EU), the risk posed by substances and the assessment of the consequences of accidents on people and the environment are based primarily on self-assessments by the business groups involved, that is to say, by those responsible for the accidents?

Submitted: 13.7.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(26 August 2026)**

The Seveso Directive ⁽¹⁾ (SD) covers establishments where dangerous substances may be present in quantities above certain thresholds. According to the Commission's information ⁽²⁾, the plant referred to by the Honourable Member is not a Seveso establishment. Thus, it is not subject to the obligations set out in the SD.

Other establishments in Aspropyrgos are indeed Seveso establishments. For those, the SD requires operators to take necessary measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences ⁽³⁾.

It is for the competent authorities to enforce such measures and to conduct thorough risk assessments and evaluations, based on operators' inputs ⁽⁴⁾, considering also effects coming from non-Seveso plants.

The SD requires that safety information and measures be communicated to local authorities ⁽⁵⁾ and the public ⁽⁶⁾. It stresses the importance of preparing and implementing major-accident prevention policies ⁽⁷⁾.

In addition to the SD, other EU occupational safety and health Directives also set out preventive and protective measures ⁽⁸⁾.

The Commission regularly evaluates the implementation by Member States of EU legislation ⁽⁹⁾. However, the primary responsibility for implementing EU legislation lies with national authorities.

Likewise, national courts are best placed for applying EU law effectively in cases citizens would challenge the liability of operators for the damages created by such accidents. National courts could take also provisional measures, if necessary.

⁽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. 1-37.

⁽²⁾ <https://industry.eea.europa.eu/seveso/establishments>.

⁽³⁾ Article 5.

⁽⁴⁾ Article 11.

⁽⁵⁾ Article 8 and 11.

⁽⁶⁾ Article 14.

⁽⁷⁾ Article 8.

⁽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.

⁽⁹⁾ Latest report on the implementation of the Seveso-III Directive: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0508&qid=1758535991861>.

In line with its policy approach ⁽¹⁰⁾, the Commission prioritises its enforcement efforts on cases pointing to a systemic breach of EU law.

At this stage, the Commission does not have elements pointing to such systemic breach of the SD in the examples referred to by the Honourable Member.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Communication from the Commission — EU law: Better results through better application, OJ C 18, 19.1.2017, p. 10-20, and Communication from the Commission — Enforcing EU law for a Europe that delivers, 13.10.2022, COM(2022) 518 final.