

EN

E-003013/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.8.2026)

The data collection ‘The European Statistics on Accidents at Work’¹ compiled by Eurostat, shows that the incidence rate of fatal work accidents in the EU-27 fell by nearly 30% between 2010 and 2023², the latest year for which data are currently available, although several of the final years of this period were among the hottest on record in Europe³.

The EU has strong rules for addressing occupational safety and health (OSH) risks. In particular, the Framework Directive on Safety and Health at Work requires employers to assess and address all OSH risks, including heat-related risks⁴. In addition, the Commission and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work provide guidance and practical tools to support the implementation of EU OSH legislation, including measures to address heat at work⁵. All policy activities of the Commission in the field of OSH contribute to the objective of zero work-related deaths, as set out in the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021–2027⁶.

The EU has put in place an ambitious legislative framework to reduce its net greenhouse gas emissions⁷. In addition, the Commission is currently developing a new European framework to strengthen climate resilience and preparedness across all levels of government and policy areas, which it expects to adopt during the 4th quarter of 2026. The Preparedness Union

¹ Commission Regulation (EU) No 349/2011 on Community statistics as regards statistics on accidents at work.

² Source: Eurostat [online date code hsw_n2_02]:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hsw_n2_02_custom_22338256/bookmark/table?lang=en&bookmarkId=b64cc00f-22f8-4899-8164-9259e4f2534c&c=1786090516000.

³ 2023 ranks as the fourth hottest year on record for Europe while 2020 was the second hottest year. See relevant publication such as <https://climate.copernicus.eu/sites/default/files/custom-uploads/GCH-2025/GCH2025-full-report.pdf>.

⁴ OJ L 183, 29.6.1989, p. 1: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01989L0391-20081211>. Other EU OSH directives relevant for heat at work include the Workplace Directive 89/654/EEC, the Construction Sites Directive 92/57/EEC, the Extractive Industries Directives 92/104/EEC and 92/91/EEC, and the Fishing Vessels Directive 93/103/EC, which contain more detailed provisions including related to indoor and work-area temperatures and protection against inclement weather conditions.

⁵ EU-OSHA guidance ‘Heat at Work – Guidance for Workplaces’: https://osha.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Heat-at-work-Guidance-for-workplaces_EN.pdf, EU-OSHA’s Online Interactive Risk Assessment Tool (OiRA) “Heat and cold”: <https://osha.europa.eu/en/oshnews/winter-cold-sudden-heat-protecting-workers-oir>, European Commission sector-specific guidelines for employers in the construction, agriculture and fishing sector:

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/96b5fe83-ef7d-4628-9af0-e02b25810c1d>,

https://osha.europa.eu/sites/default/files/OSH_workers_agriculture_livestock_farming.pdf,

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/e64b1594-1b60-11e7-aeb3-01aa75ed71a1>.

⁶ Communication COM(2021) 323 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0323&qid=1626089672913#PP1Contents>.

⁷ The European Climate Law sets the goal of becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 and commits to reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and by 90% by 2040 (Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999 (‘European Climate Law’)). The ‘Fit for 55’ package of legislation and the initiatives under the Clean Industrial Deal support all sectors of the EU’s economy to meet this target (Communication COM(2021) 550 final ‘Fit for 55’: delivering the EU’s 2030 Climate Target on the way to climate neutrality).

Strategy⁸ proposes preparedness for *all* hazards. For heatwaves, this includes early warning, prevention, resilient infrastructure, healthcare preparedness and community action. The Commission is exploring further heatwave preparedness actions to complement Member State efforts.

⁸ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/preparedness_en.