

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002974/24
to the Commission
Peter Agius (PPE)
(16 December 2024)**

Subject: Building codes (eurocodes) in construction and a special mandate to the JRC to help introduce building codes in Malta

In Malta, construction is killing people. According to the ESO, in Malta the number of deaths due to construction accidents is three times higher than the European average.

We have to act in order to protect people working in construction, such as Jean Paul Sofia, who lost his life when a building collapsed on him and five others.

We need to put residents' minds at rest and ensure that there is no repeat of tragedies like that of Miriam Pace, who was killed when her home collapsed due to excavation works being carried out on an adjacent building site, without supervision and by unqualified workers.

The adoption of the recently amended European Building Codes is intended to increase security and raise standards. Yet despite the European recommendations and despite the 40 reform recommendations made in the Sofia public inquiry, in Malta the building codes have not been introduced. They are still in the pipeline. According to public statements, they were completed three years ago but have not yet been published.

Could the Commission elaborate on what has been done at European level regarding these building codes.

1. Why are there a number of countries where the building codes have not been adopted in full or, as in Malta's case, not introduced at all?
2. What is the Commission's analysis of the current state of affairs in Malta and how does it recommend addressing it?
3. It is the job of the Joint Research Centre to support countries through training and implementation of the building codes. Can the Commission give a specific mandate to the JRC to analyse the situation in Malta more closely?

Submitted: 16.12.2024

**Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(6 February 2025)**

1. National building codes define the performance of buildings and civil engineering works and are a national responsibility for setting performance levels and enforcing these regulations. The Eurocodes set no performance requirements but are technical European standards providing a framework for calculating structural design. They are the means to support modernisation and harmonisation in structural design for buildings and infrastructure. Their use is voluntary for Member States and countries outside the EU.

In 2014-2015, the Commission performed an enquiry on the implementation of the Eurocodes in the Member States and Norway. The analysis ⁽¹⁾ concluded that in 83% of the analysed countries the Eurocodes are implemented; At the same time, faster progress in adoption of national annexes ⁽²⁾ was expected from Malta.

2. In the 2014-2015 enquiry, the National Standards Body of Malta reported that all Eurocodes parts were published as national standards in Malta, their use was voluntary and national annexes to the Eurocodes were not yet published. However, the national annexes on the most important Eurocodes parts were available for public comment.

3. The Commission has long experience in supporting the implementation and practical use of the Eurocodes at the technical level, including through training and capacity building for national authorities, national standards bodies, academia and practitioners. A wealth of information and open-access background documents is available at the Eurocodes website ⁽³⁾. The Commission will continue to support the implementation and use of the upcoming second-generation Eurocodes ⁽⁴⁾, expected to be published in 2027, and remains available to discuss specific needs for support.

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2788/854939>

⁽²⁾ <https://eurocodes.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en-eurocodes/eurocodes-national-implementation>

⁽³⁾ <https://eurocodes.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eurocodes.jrc.ec.europa.eu/second-generation-eurocodes>