

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001378/25
to the Commission
Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)
(3 April 2025)**

Subject: Measures to prevent deaths at work in Sicily and Italy

Given the recent wave of deaths at work in Sicily, five of which occurred in a single day ⁽¹⁾, and of national statistics showing there to have been 1 090 deaths at work in Italy in 2024, urgent consideration needs to be given to measures to ensure safety at the workplace.

EU legislation, with Framework Directive 89/391/EEC, requires employers to ensure the health and safety of workers in all aspects of work. The European Strategy 2021-2027 takes a 'Zero Vision' approach aimed at completely eliminating accidents at work by strengthening the protection of workers in the EU.

The European Union can play a crucial role in this context by stepping up prevention measures, especially in regions such as Sicily, where statistics show the situation to be particularly alarming, with an accident rate 125% higher than the national average ⁽²⁾.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

1. Is it aware of the serious incidence of fatal accidents at work in Sicily, and what action might it take to investigate the causes of this?
2. What plans are there to bolster support for Member States to help them achieve the 'Zero Vision' ⁽³⁾ of accidents at work, as part of the European Strategy 2021-2027 ⁽⁴⁾?

Submitted: 3.4.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(7 May 2025)**

The Commission takes the risk of work accidents very seriously. The EU legislation on occupational safety and health (OSH), including Directive 89/391/EEC ⁽¹⁾, ensures protection of workers against all risks at work.

EU OSH Directives lay down minimum requirements and Member States may adopt more stringent protective measures. It is primarily for the national authorities to investigate accidents and enforce national measures transposing EU Directives.

The Commission analyses and publishes data on work accidents reported by Member States in the framework of the European Statistics on Accidents at Work ⁽²⁾.

This is currently done at national level. The European Social Fund Plus ⁽³⁾ promotes health and safety at work via its different programmes.

The one for Sicily ⁽⁴⁾ plans to invest more than EUR 3.7 million (EU share) on measures for a healthy and well-adapted working environment addressing health risks.

The Commission and EU OSH stakeholders pursue, in line with the EU Strategic Framework for Health and Safety at Work 2021 — 2027, actions to prevent work-related accidents and illness in line with a Vision Zero approach to work-related deaths.

For example, the EU regularly adopts new legislative measures and guidelines to prevent the exposure of workers to hazardous chemicals, such as asbestos and other carcinogens, at work.

In addition, the Commission has published several guidelines such as on protecting the health and safety of workers in agriculture ⁽⁵⁾, which include information on work safety in transport and in construction ⁽⁶⁾.

¹ <https://www.avvenire.it/attualita/pagine/in-un-giorno-in-sicilia-ci-sono-state-5-morti-sul-lavoro>

² <https://www.insalutenews.it/in-salute/morti-sul-lavoro-in-italia-1-090-nel-2024-rischio-maggiore-per-stranieri-e-ultrasessantacinquenni/#::~:~:text=I%20numeri%20assoluti%20delle%20morti,pi%C3%B9%20rispetto%20a%20dicembre%202023>

³ <https://osha.europa.eu/en/safety-and-health-legislation/eu-strategic-framework-health-and-safety-work-2021-2027>

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0323>

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 183, 29.6.1989, p. 1 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A31989L0391>

⁽²⁾ See e.g. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Accidents_at_work_statistics

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://fse.regione.sicilia.it/>

⁽⁵⁾ See https://osha.europa.eu/sites/default/files/OSH_workers_agriculture_livestock_farming.pdf

⁽⁶⁾ See <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/96b5fe83-ef7d-4628-9af0-e02b25810c1d>

Finally, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work published several Online interactive Risk Assessment Tools (OiRA) for different economic sectors including agriculture and construction.
