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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(20.8.2025)

1. The central piece of EU occupational safety and health (OSH) legislation is the Framework Directive<sup>1</sup>, which applies to all sectors of activity, both public and private, and affords protection to all professions, including to railway sector workers. It addresses all risks, including those of third-party violence. In accordance with the Framework Directive, the employer must assess all risks to which workers are or can be exposed and establish the resulting preventive and protective measures. In addition, in both the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027<sup>2</sup> and the Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health<sup>3</sup>, the Commission highlighted the importance of improving the prevention against psychosocial risks, including violence, at the workplace.

2. EU OSH directives do not include explicit provisions for the railway sector. Therefore, the Commission does not have information on safety strategies that have been put in place by railway companies in the Member States. With specific regard to the International Labour Organisation Convention No 190, the Commission is not competent to monitor the application of international labour standards, which are subject to the International Labour Organization's supervisory mechanism.

3. In the EU OSH area, directives adopted on the basis of Article 153 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union establish only minimum requirements which must be transposed by Member States into their national law. Member States are allowed to maintain or adopt more stringent provisions at national level, including measures of criminal law, such as criminal penalties, that would afford greater protection to railway sector workers against third-party violence.

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<sup>1</sup> 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. - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=celex%3A31989L0391>.

<sup>2</sup> COM/2021/323 final <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0323&qid=1626089672913#PP1Contents>.

<sup>3</sup> COM/2023/298 final <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023DC0298>.