

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000475/26
to the Commission
Maria Zacharia (NI)
(5 February 2026)**

Subject: Major industrial accident prevention obligations and protection of workers and residents in Lavrio — ASAP projects

Through Implementing Decision C(2024) 3928, funding was approved under the ASAP (Act in Support of Ammunition Production) programme for defence industry facilities in Lavrio, which are located within a residential area.

According to published data and an official report by military experts, serious and documented risks have been detected at these facilities, including: explosive residues (mainly TNT), measured concentrations of more than 20%, soil contamination up to 50 000 times the permissible limits, contamination of the groundwater table and tens to hundreds of tonnes of explosives. This is therefore a known major accident risk.

The Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EU), the Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU) and the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) constitute EU law on the prevention of major accidents and are not a matter of exclusive national competence.

In view of the above:

1. What preventive and binding measures does the Commission intend to take for the immediate protection of the workers and residents of Lavrio, before the ASAP projects can proceed?
2. Will the Commission require independent inspections, full decontamination and continuous environmental monitoring as a condition of compliance with EU law?
3. How does the Commission ensure that, having knowledge of a documented risk, does not limit itself to passive monitoring, but exercises its obligation to prevent arising from EU law?

Submitted: 5.2.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(23 March 2026)**

EU occupational safety and health directives set minimum requirements for the protection of workers. They require the employer to evaluate all occupational risks and implement preventive and protective measures.

The Environmental Liability Directive ⁽¹⁾ requires polluters to remedy any significant damage they have caused to environmental resources and to act preventively in case of an immediate threat. However, it does not apply to national defence or international security activities.

Military establishments are also exempt from the Seveso III Directive (SD) ⁽²⁾, aimed to prevent major accidents. However, non-military companies supplying hazardous substances for military applications are within its scope when the quantity of such substances exceeds certain thresholds ⁽³⁾.

Thus, operators are required to prove that they took all necessary measures to prevent major accidents and limit the consequences for human health and the environment.

Member States are required to ensure appropriate consultation when planning the siting or modification of establishments ⁽⁴⁾ next to residential areas and conduct inspections ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2004/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage, OJ L 143, 30.4.2004.

⁽²⁾ 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. 1-3.

⁽³⁾ Defined in Annex I of the Seveso III Directive.

⁽⁴⁾ Article 13(3) of the Seveso III Directive.

⁽⁵⁾ Required under Article 20 of the Seveso III Directive.

Similarly, the Industrial Emissions Directive ⁽⁶⁾ (IED) requires operators of installations in its scope ⁽⁷⁾ to take the necessary measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences, while Member States have to ensure that IED installations are covered by environmental inspection plans.

Member States's competent authorities ⁽⁸⁾ are primarily responsible to ensure compliance with and enforce EU legislation ⁽⁹⁾. The Commission does not have the details of the concerned project enabling to assess whether the installation falls under the scope of the SD and IED and if so, whether these directives have been correctly applied.

⁽⁶⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1785 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 April 2024 amending Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) and Council Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L, 2024/1785, 15.7.2024.

⁽⁷⁾ Including defence installations, without prejudice to Article 346 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A12016E346>.

⁽⁸⁾ Labour inspectorate or equivalent bodies for the occupational safety and health directives, environmental agencies or inspectorates for the IED, civil protection/environmental inspectorate and agencies or labour inspectorate for the SD.

⁽⁹⁾ 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.