

**Question for written answer E-007631/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)**

Subject: Increase in work-related accidents in Greece and the EU

The quest to maintain a competitive edge and increase capitalist profits and redefine employment relationships and safety precautions has caused yet another work-related tragedy at the refineries of Hellenic Petroleum SA, an immensely profitable commercial group in Greece, resulting in the hospitalisation of 6 employees who are now fighting for their lives.

The accident was due solely to the application of the anti-labour arsenal provided for under euro-unifying and Greek legislation, with employment relationships and working hours being redefined, permanent trained workers (cut from 2 700 to 1 600 since 2003) being replaced by contract workers for a few days at a time, working exhausting 12- and 16-hour shifts and hundreds of thousands of hours' overtime for a miserly EUR 3.8 an hour, and work being intensified beyond all limits.

The safety measures taken to protect workers' lives and health are seen as 'stranded' costs and thousands of workers in Greece and throughout the EU are being cut to pieces as a result of 'accidents at work' (or rather employers' criminal action). At the same time, hospital infrastructures are underfunded and are being downgraded and are unable to cope with such cases and government inspectorates have practically been shut down due to staff shortage.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

What is its position on the increase in the number of accidents at work in Greece and throughout the EU, the intensification and increased outsourcing of work, the cutbacks in spending and safety measures and the need to comply with the working hours and remuneration provided for under collective agreements?