

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2785/03
by Armando Cossutta (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Fatal accidents at work

Every day and increasingly frequently accidents occur at the workplace. More and more people are being killed, seriously injured or disabled. These accidents are mainly caused by failure on the part of businesses to comply with requirements concerning the safety of workers, as well as by an increasingly hectic pace of work and a heavy workload. For these reasons such accidents are aptly referred to in Italian as "omicidi bianchi" (white murders).

In view of the legal bases the Commission needs to take action in this area, it may consider that various provisions on the subject, including criminal liability, have an impact on distortions of the rules of competition.

What steps will the Commission take to harmonise legislation on safety at the workplace, the criminal liability of negligent employers who cause such fatal accidents and compensation for victims' families?