

**Question for written answer E-004239/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Occupational hazards in the motor industry

In the motor industry, both in component manufacturing and in assembly, automation has, in the main, been taken to the most advanced level. This entails substantial investment, on which firms attempt to secure a return by continually shortening working time and increasing the numbers of operations.

The division of labour and the enforced working pace have far-reaching implications not just in terms of increased productivity and higher added value, but also for workers' lives.

In the motor industry, as in every mass production sector, occupational diseases, and especially musculoskeletal injuries, are recognised to be a serious problem. These injuries are linked directly to the production process, the performance of repetitive tasks, and/or ergonomically bad work positions.

At a time when there is so much discussion about the reindustrialisation of Europe, it is essential to think of workers and promote measures enabling production and work to be organised in such a way as to avert occupational hazards.

In the light of the foregoing, why does the Commission not consider work in the motor industry to be a stressful, physically demanding occupation entailing an exceptionally high degree of risk?

What measures will the Commission take to avert the occupational hazards in question?

Will it help to protect the health of motor industry workers, for instance by requiring firms to adjust tasks according to workers' ages and their state of health?

What means is the Commission thinking of providing in order to indemnify workers who have been harmed?