

**Question for written answer E-004438/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

José Ramón Bauzá Díaz (Renew)

Subject: Safety of prison officers in Europe

The association 'Your neglect could kill me', made up of workers from Spanish penitentiary institutions, has published a scathing report on the lack of safety of professionals in the country's prisons.

In 2019 alone, that lack of safety resulted in more than 329 attacks by prisoners against prison officers, the very persons employed to maintain order and a harmonious environment in prisons. The situation is no better elsewhere in Europe.

The lack of investment and neglect on the part of governments are pushing penitentiary institutions to their limits. The situation has reached such a point that even the Spanish Government's Director of Communications for Penitentiary Institutions, Cristina Sánchez, has accused those working in the sector of drawing attention by inventing 'false reports', and in doing so has sought to keep the problem from the public eye and has deserted prison officers.

In the light of this critical situation, could the Commission answer the following question:

Does it intend to urge governments throughout Europe to ensure the proper protection of those working in penitentiary institutions, who, without assistance and investment from states, are putting their lives at risk on a daily basis?