

**Question for written answer E-003763/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Rapid increase in 'workplace accidents' caused by criminal negligence on the part of employers

The number of 'workplace accidents' caused by criminal negligence on the part of employers has been rising steadily in recent years, the official figure alone having reached almost 60 since the beginning of 2022.

This can be attributed to the more intensive pace of work, pressure to meet project deadlines, inadmissible shift work arrangements and inadequate or non-existent worker protection. Workers are doubly at risk, since employers are failing to comply with basic health and safety rules, while Labour Inspectorate staffing levels have been heavily depleted under the ND and SYRIZA governments. Its transformation into an 'independent authority' along the lines of the European Labour Authority under the egregious Hatzidakis Law has left the inspectorate with even fewer resources and staff.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say how it feels about the fact that EU directives and their implementation have effectively ended workplace controls owing to understaffing in the government departments responsible?
2. How does it feel about the fact that the EU strategy of introducing greater flexibility, resulting in people working up to 13 hours per day, has led to an increase in 'workplace accidents'?
3. What are its views regarding urgent demands by workers for full compensation for the families of those killed or injured at the workplace, acceptable working hours and comprehensive measures to ensure health and safety at work?

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