

**Question for written answer E-002385/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Bridge collapse in Patras leaves two dead

The collapse of the bridge on the Perimetriki Odos in Patras, while it was undergoing repairs, has left two people dead and twelve injured.

It is commonplace for public works to be carried out on a Sunday, in extreme weather conditions, such as the heatwave currently gripping Greece, and without any safety measures being put in place for workers. The government, the Ministry of Labour and the Labour Inspectorate with its oversight mechanisms have a lot to answer for because they have given large contractors free rein to carry out construction work, free from any accountability, without ensuring compliance with and implementation of safety measures for the protection of workers and of anyone else who is within close proximity of the works.

In view of this, what does the Commission have to say about:

1. the fact that this tragic accident is the result of policy seeing human safety and life as expendable and serving the needs of capitalist profiteering, in the process of implementing the EU's recommendations as set out in the guidelines on the trans-European transport network?
2. What is its stance on the fact that the roadworks in question are being carried out on the basis of Directive 2004/54/EC, which provides for the preparation of a 'risk analysis' on the basis of 'minimum requirements', but that the criterion of the profits of the groups carrying out the work has been used, instead of applying specific technologies and specifications to protect the lives of workers and those using the bridge?

Submitted: 2.8.2023