

**Question for written answer E-000648/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Idoia Villanueva Ruiz** (The Left)

**Subject:** Access to early retirement in sectors engaged in toxic, arduous and hazardous activities, especially in the chemical and refining industries

In the EU, a number of occupational groups carry out activities classified as toxic, arduous and hazardous, especially in sectors such as the chemical and refining industries. Given the obvious physical and mental burden of those jobs, workers in those areas need to be able to take early retirement.

That requirement is backed up by studies such as the scientific survey carried out in 2023 by the University of Zaragoza (Spain) and the Sindicato de Trabajadores (Workers' Union), which demonstrate the debilitating nature of those jobs.

Against that backdrop:

1. What specific plan does the Commission have to address employment circumstances for workers in the chemical and refining industries, whose tasks are considered toxic, arduous and hazardous?
2. Is the Commission working to establish EU legislation to give that group access to early retirement, in line with individual Member States' laws?

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