

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0289/10
by Harlem Désir (S&D)
to the Commission

Subject: EU workers who fall victim to fatal accidents while at work in another Member State

Each year, 5 720 people in the EU die as a result of work-related accidents (Eurostat, 2005).

According to the International Labour Organisation (2005), each year 159 500 workers die from occupational diseases in the EU. In other words, every three-and-a-half minutes somebody in the EU dies from work-related causes.

In launching the Community Strategy on Health and Safety at Work (2007-2010), the Commission set itself an ambitious objective namely to reduce the number of work-related accidents and occupational diseases in the 27 Member States of the EU by 25% before 2012.

Given the development of labour mobility in Europe, a proportion of the fatal work-related accidents recorded by Eurostat affects EU nationals working on assignments in a Member State that is not their home country.

What specific provisions and measures is the Commission proposing be used to combat this particular type of work-related accident and to protect the rights of posted workers in terms of safety at work?

How can access to the law be guaranteed for victims and their families, when proceedings against businesses take place in a Member State that is not their home country?

How will the Commission encourage Member States to cooperate, following such work-related accidents, in the interest of workers and their families who have been severely affected by these traumatic incidents?