

**Question for written answer E-002873/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: Crimes committed by employers in the workplace and passed off as accidents

The black list of work-related ‘accidents’ amounting to crimes committed by employers and of workplace fatalities is growing. Since 1 January 2024, Greece has recorded 114 work-related deaths, continuing the trend seen in 2023, which marked another dark year with 14 920 reported work-related accidents, 108 of which were fatal. Meanwhile, there is a looming danger of major industrial accidents, for which the Nea Dimokratia Government – just like the governments before it – has no prevention and contingency plan.

In view of the above:

1. What view does the Commission take of the fact that EU guidelines and their implementation by Greek governments, in the form, for example, of the Hatzidakis and Georgiadis laws, which are based on Directive 2003/88/EC concerning the ‘organisation of working time’, increase overtime and work intensification, as a result of which accidents and fatalities are increasing, while at the same time supervisory authorities are understaffed?
2. What view does it take of the fact that, under the EU’s Seveso Directive, ‘due diligence’ makes companies responsible for drawing up profit-oriented protection plans instead of having a comprehensive prevention and contingency plan in place for major industrial accidents, with sole responsibility held by the State?
3. What view does it take of the urgent demands of the labour movement for the abolition of the anti-labour laws of recent years and for the signing of collective bargaining agreements, guaranteeing a stable daily and weekly working time (a five-day, 35-hour workweek comprising 7-hour working days), meaningful wage increases and full labour rights?

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