

**Priority question for written answer P-002974/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Peter Agius (PPE)

Subject: Building codes (eurocodes) in construction and a special mandate to the JRC to help introduce building codes in Malta

In Malta, construction is killing people. According to the ESO, in Malta the number of deaths due to construction accidents is three times higher than the European average.

We have to act in order to protect people working in construction, such as Jean Paul Sofia, who lost his life when a building collapsed on him and five others.

We need to put residents' minds at rest and ensure that there is no repeat of tragedies like that of Miriam Pace, who was killed when her home collapsed due to excavation works being carried out on an adjacent building site, without supervision and by unqualified workers.

The adoption of the recently amended European Building Codes is intended to increase security and raise standards. Yet despite the European recommendations and despite the 40 reform recommendations made in the Sofia public inquiry, in Malta the building codes have not been introduced. They are still in the pipeline. According to public statements, they were completed three years ago but have not yet been published.

Could the Commission elaborate on what has been done at European level regarding these building codes.

1. Why are there a number of countries where the building codes have not been adopted in full or, as in Malta's case, not introduced at all?
2. What is the Commission's analysis of the current state of affairs in Malta and how does it recommend addressing it?
3. It is the job of the Joint Research Centre to support countries through training and implementation of the building codes. Can the Commission give a specific mandate to the JRC to analyse the situation in Malta more closely?

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