

**Question for written answer E-000412/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)

Subject: Deaths at work and health and safety risks for workers in the EU due to high temperatures

The rise in the global average temperature due to climate change poses a serious risk to the health and safety of workers in Europe. An ACSH¹ opinion highlights that exposure to high temperatures poses significant risks to the safety and health of workers, particularly in physically demanding jobs. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), deaths linked to high temperatures in workplaces in the EU have increased by 42 % since 2000, the fastest increase in occupational accidents worldwide².

Heat stress is now a structural occupational hazard, reducing productivity and increasing the need for breaks and the risk of errors and accidents at work.

Given that the current Directive³ has not been updated with specific provisions on heat stress:

1. Does the Commission recognise occupational heat stress as a systemic risk factor for health and safety at work, requiring specific attention at EU level?
2. Does the Commission intend to respond to the trade unions' call for binding legislation on occupational exposure to high temperatures, with clear obligations for employers and specific protection for vulnerable groups of workers?

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¹ Opinion of the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work, entitled 'Climate Change – Heat at Work' (<https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/cb9293be-4563-4f19-89cf-4c4588bd6541/library/61e58999-6cfa-402d-9d98-38fac4b2b001/details>).

² <https://www.etuc.org/en/document/content-directive-prevention-occupational-heat-risks>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:31989L0391>.