

**Question for written answer E-006515/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Christel Schaldemose (S&D) and Bendt Bendtsen (PPE)

Subject: Relocation of abattoir jobs

On 13 August 2014 the food processing company Danish Crown announced that it was relocating part of its deboning operations from the Faaborg abattoir in Denmark to Tulip Ltd in Cornwall (UK). The closure of the abattoir in Faaborg and the dismissal of 472 employees had been known about for some time, but now the relocation is taking place because Danish Crown has received a subsidy from a regional fund in England. Danish Crown states that it is receiving investment aid in the region of GBP 4.8 million. Just under half of this amount will go to the production operation which is being relocated from Faaborg.

We would therefore like to ask the Commission:

1. Does the regional fund which is subsidising the relocation from Faaborg to Cornwall receive EU support, and is it legal to use EU subsidies to relocate jobs from one EU Member State to another?
2. If no EU funds are involved in the English regional fund, is it legal under EU state aid rules to subsidise the relocation of a private firm from one EU Member State to another?
3. If it is legal, does the Commission have any plans to review the rules?

The dismissed abattoir workers in Faaborg are greatly astonished – as are we – to see their jobs being relocated to another EU country with public support.