

**Question for written answer E-010362/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: No to the closure of ELVO in Thessaloniki

The Greek government, the EU and the Troika have decided to close the Hellenic Vehicle Industry (ELVO) defence plant in Thessaloniki.

The privatisation of the company has not only failed to 'save' the plant, as ND and PASOK governments had claimed, but has reduced its production capacity and staff by 800 workers. The Greek State has now undertaken to close the company, with the dismissal of the remaining 350 employees and hundreds of others in supplier companies. This means the loss of production capacity, know-how and skilled personnel. Greece will be forced to make new imports, while its defensive capability will also suffer.

This shows what is really meant by the restructuring and competitiveness of the steel industry in the EU, as discussed at the European Parliament's most recent plenary session, i.e. the concentration of production and capital in the hands of a few larger monopolies, the closure of smaller companies, wage reductions and thousands of layoffs.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- What is its position with respect to the EU's responsibility for the closure of ELVO?
- What view does it take of the entrepreneur, who after exploiting ELVO, is making more money in other sectors in Greece and abroad, subsidised by EU funds?
- What view does it take of the demand made by workers at ELVO and the Greek people that this industrial plant should not be closed and that no workers should be made redundant but rather that more workers should be recruited and that ELVO should take orders for the defence of the country?