

Question for written answer E-002546/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Glenis Willmott (S&D)

Subject: High-tech manufacturing jobs in the EU

It was announced in November 2014 that at least 2 600 jobs were to be cut by Rolls-Royce in my East Midlands constituency in the UK. These include many highly skilled positions in the high-tech engineering and manufacturing sector.

Members of the Commission have stated that the high-tech manufacturing and engineering sectors are to be a key driver of growth and innovation in the EU in the future. Europe is considered the world leader in research and technological development in many areas, including that of Rolls-Royce: aerospace.

Despite this, manufacturing jobs in these sectors continue to be lost to low-wage countries at a significant rate. For example, for the first time in its history Rolls-Royce has more aerospace employees overseas than in the UK.

1. How many jobs in the high-tech engineering sector, does the Commission estimate, have been lost from the EU in the past 10 years?
2. Does the Commission agree that this will be a challenge for the EU in the future and, if so, what does it propose to do to encourage continued inward investment in Europe's high-tech sectors?
3. How much EU funding has Rolls-Royce received over the past 10 years with regard to its UK activity and Europe-wide activities?