

**Question for written answer E-001561/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: No to the privatisation of LARCO

LARCO, one of the largest ferronickel production companies in Europe, is heading for privatisation after 50 years of operation, while hundreds of employees who, for many years, have shed blood, sweat and tears to make it a profitable business are now faced with dismissal, at least 20 % salary cuts and no production bonus.

The Commission requires the firm to return thousands of euros for what they claim is 'illegal state aid', although the majority of the firm is publicly owned. Overall responsibility lies with the EU, as it steadily sees to it that debt-free public property is handed over to business groups, thereby shifting the burden on to the people.

By applying the third Memorandum it signed with the EU, the IMF and the ECB, the SYRIZA-ANEL administration, is applying the same recipe used by previous administrations and is privatising LARCO in an effort to achieve 'sustainability'. Of course, privatisation has never 'saved' employees; quite the contrary: it has brought salary cuts and crushed labour rights.

What is the Commission's position:

- on the EU's responsibility in requiring that the aid granted to LARCO be returned, given that the move is designed to clear the way for the firm's privatisation?
- on the employees' request for the firm not to be privatised and for jobs, salaries and workers' rights to be protected?