

**Question for written answer E-006842/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Improving employee information

In the EU, communication and consultation with employees are governed in particular by:

- Directive 2002/14/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2002 establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees in the European Community;
- Directive 2009/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees;
- Council Directive 98/59/EC of 20 July 1998 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies

The sudden announcement by US corporation Caterpillar that it would be closing its site in Gosselies came as a shock to its employees and the Belgian authorities, sparking social unrest which must be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

To prevent further such dramas from unfolding in the future, the EU would be well advised to take steps to ensure that employees and public authorities receive timely information regarding a firm's situation and intentions.

How will the Commission ensure that employees and public authorities are better informed, so as to avoid the kind of sudden collective redundancies that hit Caterpillar Gosselies?