

**Question for written answer E-001559/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: Opinion by Commissioners Bierkowska and Katainen on protectionism and European industry

On 1 March, Commissioners Katainen and Bierkowska published an opinion piece in *Le Soir* entitled 'Le protectionnisme ne rend pas l'industrie plus forte' ('Protectionism does not make industry stronger').

This inevitably raises serious questions on the perception and future action of the Commission regarding the state of European industry that is still heavily impacted by the economic layoff at Caterpillar.

Of course the Commissioners state, as they might well do considering the social havoc caused by runaway globalisation, that 'the legitimate concerns of those left behind by globalisation must be addressed' and that we must be ready to 'take anti-dumping measures against unfair commercial practices'.

The underlying theme of the statement however remains the worship of a redeeming globalisation as opposed to protectionism that is the root of economic decline.

If 'concerned' about the future of its industry, could the Commission inform us of the progress of its actions to reinforce said industry so that it may stand up to this beneficial globalisation and reach the target of 20% of GDP confirmed in its 2012 communication and reiterated in the European Parliament resolution following the closure of Caterpillar?