Question for written answer E-002959/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Social cost of mergers and acquisitions and job preservation in Europe

Just three months after Nokia officially acquired Alcatel-Lucent in 2016, the Finnish company announced redundancies: a mass lay-off of 10 000 to 15 000 of the company's 104 000 employees. In France, 411 jobs will also be cut in 2018: ultimately, 4 200 jobs could be at risk. In February 2016, the Lafarge-Holcim Group announced 111 redundancies with the closure of its cement works on the outskirts of the port of Saint-Vigor-d'Ymonville.

The Commission's Directorate-General for Competition investigates all significant mergers and acquisitions, e.g. Bayer-Monsanto. It is commonplace for the DG for Competition to demand adjustments to the merger plan before it grants its authorisation.

1. Do procedures to evaluate the different options proposed by the DG for Competition include the impact on jobs in Europe?

2. What measures has the Commission taken to minimise redundancies in Europe as a result of such mega-mergers?