

**Question for written answer E-003139/2017/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Relocation of Whirlpool Amiens

On 24 January 2017 Whirlpool announced that it will close its tumble-dryer factory in Amiens and move production to Łódź, in Poland. Over 600 jobs are likely to be lost to the new site as a result of intra-EU competition, adding to a long list of industrial site closures exploiting the differences in pay and social protection within the European Union.

A European Union that protects and stands behind its people should not be facilitating competition between regions and workers. This is why a more proactive attitude is required.

Is the Commission aware of the damage caused by attitudes of this kind among industrial groups citing the principle of competition as the basis for their actions?

Would it support the establishment of a re-balancing system whereby the tax savings made by companies that relocate are allocated to the person or firm that rescues the original business?

Would the Commission support the establishment of an anti-relocation guarantee in the form of both strict control over grants to companies that relocate and aid for former employees who rescue the business and modernise it?