Question for written answer E-004004/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: European industrial wasteland or smart protectionism: the example of Nokia

In September 2013, Microsoft paid EUR 5.44 billion to buy Nokia's mobile terminals and services division. Following that purchase, some 25 000 Nokia employees, including 4700 working in Finland, were transferred to Microsoft.

In June 2017, all the employees of Europe's only flagship brand in the telephony/technology sector were made redundant. It all took less than three years[1].

According to the Finnish minister Jari Lindstrom, when purchasing part of Nokia Microsoft had given an undertaking to make the Finland the nerve centre of its operations in Europe and the focus of its activities in the area of mobile telephony and to build a data centre in the north of the country. Microsoft has apparently honoured none of these pledges, however[2].

Has the Commission identified the European firms which are vital to Europe's strategic independence and as providers of jobs?

What steps will the Commission take in the future to prevent strategically important European firms from being bought up and closed down by non-European firms?

1 http://www.zdnet.com/article/microsoft-cuts-another-1850-jobs-takes-950-million-charge-in-phone-hardware-business
2 http://www.numerama.com/business/173371-finlande-veut-a-microsoft-nokia.html