

**Question for written answer E-005229/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: No former Monsanto employee at the head of the European Chemicals Agency

Alstom, Siemens, SNCF and Deutsche Bahn are all key players in the European rail sector. On 30 September 2014, however, a former director of Bombardier was appointed as the head of the European Union Agency for Railways¹.

A senior employee of the firm which is the EU manufacturers' main Canadian competitor was thus chosen to manage the harmonisation of technical standards in Europe. These standards have a significant impact on European companies such as Alstom or Siemens and therefore on jobs - 28 000 jobs at Alstom, 150 000 at SNCF². In Europe as a whole, the rail sector provides 560 000 jobs³ and has a turnover of EUR 147 billion⁴.

On 16 October 2017, a new head of the European Chemicals Agency is to be appointed. It would be unacceptable if Monsanto, Exxon or DuPont and Dow were to dictate policy on issues such as reproductive toxicity, the environment and animal testing.

What steps will the Commission take to ensure that no director of a non-European chemicals company is appointed to head this European agency?

¹ Mr Josef Doppelbauer.

² https://www.challenges.fr/entreprise/sncf-nouvelle-coupe-des-effectifs-en-2016_443391.

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/pocketbook2016.pdf>, p. 24.

⁴ Source: CER.