

**Question for written answer E-003680/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Daniele Viotti (S&D), Mercedes Bresso (S&D) and Alberto Cirio (PPE)**

Subject: EU funds in the chemical sector

The chemical industry accounts for 7% of the EU's industrial production and plays a crucial role in the field of research and development for Europe's competitiveness in the world.

The chemical industry is also a pillar of the economy of the province of Vercelli, Italy, which was hit hard by the economic crisis. Swedish group Perstorp, after having acquired Polioli SpA in 2017 (with a major recovery plan and a six-plus-six-year business plan), recently announced it would be closing the plant, making its 72 workers redundant and moving production to other plants within the group.

It is important for the Commission to support policies that facilitate the structural changes that the chemical sector needs, such as reducing its environmental impact. On the other hand, it is unacceptable for the Commission to allocate funds to companies that do not comply with the principles of corporate social responsibility. In this particular case, Perstorp's decision will have a very severe social impact on the area, from the redundancy of workers to the consequences for linked industries.

Can the Commission say:

- 1) Is it aware of EU funds allocated directly or indirectly to businesses or foundations of the Perstorp group?
- 2) Does it intend to take corporate social responsibility criteria into account when allocating EU funds, directly or indirectly, to the private sector?