

**Question for oral answer O-000086/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 128

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Subject: Industrial and employment perspectives in the steel iron industry in the EU: the urgent need to respond to the loss of jobs and key production in Member States

In November 2012 Outokumpu, which had already merged with Inoxum in February 2012, received the green light from the Commission to proceed in dismantling the different branches of production at the ThyssenKrupp's Acciai Speciali Terni steel factory in Terni, since Outokumpu had received partial authorisation to put them on the market while retaining its most lucrative sector in Turin.

The AST plant in Terni, which ensures 'top EU production' of special iron steel, was part of a recovery plan by ThyssenKrupp, which decided in 2012 to abandon the iron steel production plant by selling AST to Outokumpu and to concentrate on key production in other sectors.

In 2013 the implementation of the Commission decision obliging Outokumpu to dismiss its acquisition of and investments in the AST plant in Terni as well as in some German sites, such as Krefeld and Bochum, due to its excessive concentration in the world market, where it held a dominant position considered unacceptable by the World Trade Organization, revealed its adverse impact on employment and growth and on the general European perspective in steel production.

As a consequence of the Commission decision, ThyssenKrupp reacquired the Terni plant, once again becoming the sole owner of AST, while its pre-existing plans excluded its engagement in iron steel production.

Whereas according to ThyssenKrupp's industrial development plan, the progressive dismissal of factory workers is foreseen at the Terni plant in anticipation of a new buyer intending to invest in the iron steel sector.

Could the Commission indicate what measures the Member States are prepared to take in order to ensure that the most relevant and valuable iron steel producers, an essential and strategic key sector of any advanced industrial policy, are kept within the EU?

Moreover, how will the Commission and the Member States implement an effective and innovative industrial policy, starting from preserving and acknowledging the best locations of expertise in all Member States and their individual specialisations and capacities, while avoiding any temptation to permit devastating and unacceptable de-localisation, even among Member States?

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