

**Question for written answer P-005426/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Serious social consequences of General Electric's takeover of Alstom's power generation and grid arm

In 2014 the Alstom and General Electric boards approved General Electric's takeover of Alstom's power generation and grid business.

In 2015 the Commission gave the go-ahead to this operation, as other regulators, including the US competition authority, already had done.

The acquisition came into effect in 2016. On 12 January the company unveiled its plan to restructure the four sectors of activity, namely distribution, heat generation, renewables, and corporate affairs. Under the plan some operations are to be closed down, and business will be moved, with the result, according to the company, that roughly 6 500 jobs will be shed in Europe in 2016 and 2017¹.

Did the Competition Commissioner know about the job losses entailed in the business restructuring at the time when authorisation was given for General Electric's acquisition of the Alstom power generation and grid arm?

What estimate of indirect benefits led the Commission to approve the operation?

¹ http://economia.elpais.com/economia/2016/01/13/actualidad/1452689098_218682.html.