

**Question for written answer P-001166/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Financing the CatCh programme

The closure of the Caterpillar Gosselies plant, which was announced without warning on 2 September 2016, is above all a social and human disaster for thousands of families. The scandalous decision is also a huge blow to the economy of an entire region.

In response, local leaders came together to devise a 'post-Caterpillar' solution which would speed up the creation of jobs.

A plan named 'CATalyst 4 Charleroi' is currently being finalised. It revolves around four sectors with high added value and job-creating power: advanced manufacturing, transport and logistics, health and life sciences and the creative arts and digital media. The objective is to create 6000 to 8000 jobs in 10 years, with the first results being felt in three or four years.

The plan should help to build on the reconversion efforts the region has been making for years and which have been supported by the EU, in particular via the Structural Funds.

In order to ensure that these efforts do not go to waste, can the Commission mobilise certain financial instruments, such as the European Fund for Strategic Investments in coordination with the EIB, or other targeted funds or programmes, with a view to supporting concrete job-creation efforts?