

**Question for written answer P-001499/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Purchase of Caterpillar factory land by public authorities

The Caterpillar factory will close sometime in the next few months, as it announced without warning on 2 September 2016.

The mass layoffs will cause the destruction of 6000 direct and indirect jobs.

Since the announcement of the closure, the public authorities have been stressing the need to buy the 98-hectare site, which is in a strategic position for the economic redeployment of the thole region.

Today, Caterpillar's local managing body implied that the Group did not want to keep the land.

Given the strategic importance of the site and the investment the EU has already made in the reconversion of the region via the structural funds, could the Commission help the Walloon region to buy the land on the condition that it present a socio-economic redeployment plan for the site – a plan which, incidentally, will shortly be finalised and involves four high value added sectors with great job-creating power: advanced manufacture, transport and logistics, health and life sciences and the creative arts and digital media?