

**Question for written answer P-006207/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Alstom and Siemens merger, and job protection in the EU railway industry

On 26 September 2017, the boards of directors of the French and German companies Alstom SA and Siemens AG approved in principle a merger of equals.

The company created by this merger wants to become a global giant in rail construction and signalling, with an annual turnover in excess of EUR 15 billion.

Obviously this merger must be put before the competition authorities, as provided for by EU legislation.

But in addition to analysing this new company for market dominance, should the Commission not also ask itself why this merger is happening and look at its own role in protecting jobs in industry in the EU?

It is clear that the threat posed by the Chinese Group CRRC is the main reason for this merger. Its social and environmental production conditions and heavy state subsidies make it extremely competitive.

The rail industry has genuine technical expertise in fields such as, for example, the European rail traffic management system (ERTMS) sector and signalling in general. In view of Mr Juncker's statements on EU industrial strategy, what strong measures is the EU planning to take to protect its rail industry in particular, and its 400 000 jobs?