

**Question for written answer P-003571/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Laura Agea (EFDD)

Subject: Layoffs at Bekaert's Figline and Incisa Valdarno plant (Florence)

The Belgian multinational Bekaert, which produces steel reinforcements for tires, has decided to close the plant in Figline and Incisa Valdarno (Florence) and to relocate production to Romania where the cost of labour is only a fifth as high.

This decision, which comes in the wake of other 'bad neighbourhood' decisions taken in many Member States, suddenly puts at risk 318 jobs, including those of all the highly skilled engineers from the R & D department.

- 1) Can the Commission verify whether the company has used public funds from Romania to move the production site to Slatina and, if so, whether that action complies with Directive 2014/95/EC amending Directive 2013/34/EU ?
- 2) Does the Commission intend to adopt an official position on whether the practice of relocating industrial plants within the EU for economic or fiscal reasons is compatible with the Treaties, and to present a legislative initiative on corporate social responsibility?
- 3) Will the Commission adopt a position on the possibility that companies relocating within the EU should bear the cost of seeking alternative jobs for their redundant workforce?

Supporters¹

¹ In addition to the author, this question is also supported by: Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD), Dario Tamburrano (EFDD).