

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

5 February 2004

B5-0076/2004

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Pasqualina Napoletano, Giorgio Ruffolo, Guido Sacconi, Walter Veltroni
and Stephen Hughes

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the crisis in the iron and steel sector, with particular reference to the case of
AST/TK in Terni

European Parliament resolution on the crisis in the iron and steel sector, with particular reference to the case of AST/TK in Terni

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular the provisions on social rights, and the provisions of the EC Treaty, in particular Article 136, according to which the Member States have as their objectives the promotion of employment, improved living and working conditions, proper social protection and dialogue between management and labour with a view to lasting high employment and the combating of exclusion,
- having regard to the conclusions of the European Council meeting in Lisbon of 23 and 24 March 2000,
- having regard to Council Directive 94/45/EC of 22 September 1994 on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees,
- having regard to Directive 2002/14/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2002 establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees in the European Community,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on the iron and steel sector, restructuring and industrial mergers,
- having regard to the continuing job losses in the iron and steel sector,
- having regard to Rule 37(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the company Thyssen Krupp recently presented its technical schedule, which indicates its decision to close the AST's electrical steel department in Terni, Italy, entailing the loss of 900 jobs in that area,
- B. whereas electrical steel is of decisive importance for the overall equilibrium of the Terni steelworks, in terms of production arrangements and synergies and the implications for employment; whereas, moreover, TK promised to make Terni the European centre of excellence for grain-oriented electrical steel; whereas this plant is one of the company's European sites with the lowest product unit costs,
- C. whereas the potential down-scaling of electrical steel production in Terni would result in Italy's losing a substantial proportion of its production in this strategic sector, with serious consequences for the competitiveness of the system and for young, skilled workers,

- D. having regard to the mobilisation of the workers concerned, their trade unions, the local population and representatives of local authorities,
- E. having regard to the enormous public investment, including Community funding linked to the Objective 2 contract and the ESF, in developing local systems, infrastructure and vocational training, from which AST/TK has benefited both directly and indirectly,
1. Calls on the Italian Government and the Commission to promote immediate moves to prevent the closure of the electrical steel department of TK's plant in Terni;
 2. Expresses its moral support for the workers involved and their families;
 3. Reminds the Commission that following the expiry of the ECSC its competences include tackling the economic and social impact of the changes in the European iron and steel sector;
 4. Calls on the Commission to continue its determined efforts in both the OECD and the WTO with a view to the drafting and adoption of strict multilateral legislation to combat the unfair competition from third countries facilitated by subsidies and the exploitation of commercial provisions or other measures;
 5. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote innovation, develop new measures for specialisation and quality in this sector or draw up appropriate plans for reconversion; considers it necessary to ensure that a strong and modern steel sector is maintained in the EU, in order to meet the requirements of lasting development and job creation;
 6. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to adopt a more decisive strategy to tackle industrial restructuring and its social impact, in order to prevent adverse repercussions not only on employment and working conditions, but also on regional planning;
 7. Considers that all the subsidies granted in the context of public funding, including the Structural Funds, should be made subject to agreements regarding employment, local development and investments for the purposes of modernising production;
 8. Calls on the Member States to promote and step up social dialogue in the context of compliance with national and European legislation on informing and consulting employees and to adopt effective measures aimed at protecting trade union representatives;
 9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the social partners.