

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

9 February 2004

B5-0092/2004

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Roberta Angelilli

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the closure of the Terni steelworks

European Parliament resolution on the closure of the Terni steelworks

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the conclusions of the Lisbon European Council meeting of 23 and 24 March 2000, which confirmed the European Union's commitment to promoting growth and employment, upholding dignity at work and improving social protection measures,
 - having regard to the 1989 Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers and the relevant provisions of the EC Treaty, in particular Articles 136-139 thereof, which stipulate that 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 European Charter of Fundamental Rights, Article 27 of which protects the right of workers and their representatives to information and consultation within the undertaking,
 - having regard to Directive 98/59/EC on collective redundancies,
 - having regard to Directive 2001/23/EC on transfers of undertakings,
 - having regard to Directives 94/45/EC and 2002/14/EC on informing and consulting employees,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on restructuring, transferring and closing down companies in the EU, in particular in the cases of Renault and Goodyear,
 - having regard also to the provisions on abuse of a dominant position and company concentrations, including Regulation 4064/89 and Article 82 of the EC Treaty, as interpreted by the Court of Justice (C 85/76 and C 70/89),
 - having regard to Rule 37(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the announcement without prior notice by the management of the German multinational Thyssen Krupp of the discontinuation of magnetic steel production at its Terni plant in Italy and the transfer of the unit to France, Germany, India or China, involving the loss of some 500 jobs at the Terni plant, will have serious repercussions for around 400 ancillary jobs and will entail a loss of 140 million in turnover and of 90 000 tonnes of electric steel each year,
- B. whereas the plant may be relocated to countries such as India or China, where standards of protection for workers are well below the European average and there are not sufficient guarantees relating to social protection and environmental impact,

- C. whereas, in particular, the Terni plant has so far been highly productive and profitable thanks especially to the extremely high level of specialisation of its employees and whereas it has a national strategic value on account of the excellent quality of the steel produced,
- D. having regard also to the considerable value of the plant in terms the resources it represents for the Umbria region and Italy as a whole,
- E. whereas the discontinuation of production in Italy could seriously disrupt well established balances in the European competition market if the expected abuse of dominant position and company concentrations took place, with the risk of contravening the relevant legislation,
1. Expresses its solidarity with the employees concerned;
 2. Welcomes the active role played to date by the Italian Government and hopes that new measures will be taken to avoid the closure of the Terni plant, in particular through concerted strategies with the French and German Governments;
 3. Calls on the EU institutions to take appropriate action to guarantee the protection of workers and a balanced common market and to avoid the risk of concentrations and abuse of dominant position which the transfer operation might entail;
 4. Calls on the Commission to check what use was made of EU funds granted to Thyssen Krupp to promote industrial development;
 5. Calls on the Commission to make the allocation of EU funds to companies subject to a utilisation requirement guaranteeing the protection of workers, making it compulsory to comply with protection standards and making relocation conditional upon specific rules which take due account of workers' demands;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the social partners.