

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

21.02.2000

2/2000

WRITTEN DECLARATION

to be entered in the Register

submitted pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr Amando COSSUTTA and Mr Lucio MANISCO

on the recently announced closure of the Goodyear factory in Italy

Expiry date: 21.5.2000

The European Parliament

- having regard to Directive 75/729/EEC, as amended by Directive 92/56/EC on collective redundancies,
- having regard to the European Social Charter (Turin, 18 October 1961) and the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers (1989), concerning improved working conditions, social protection and the promotion of employment (Article 136 TEU, ex 117),
- having regard to its two previous resolutions on the closure and relocation of undertakings in the EU,
 - A. having regard to the unexpected announcement of the imminent closure of the Goodyear factory in Cisterna di Latina (Italy),
 - B. having regard to the ensuing dismissal of over 600 employees of that factory,
 - C. having regard to the considerable concessions received by Goodyear from the Italian State to set up the factory (which meant that 75% of the expenditure was covered by means of non-refundable capital grants and subsidised loans),
 - D. having regard to Goodyear's complete failure to give its employees any prior notice of its intentions,
 - E. having regard to the American multinational's unwillingness to transfer the plant, thus writing off the high level of professional competence shown by the workers,
 1. Strongly condemns the closure of the factory and the conduct of the Goodyear management towards its own employees;
 2. Condemns the indifference of the Goodyear company towards the employment prospects of its own workforce, as further demonstrated by its outright opposition to the possibility of transferring the factory to a third party;
 3. Emphasises that Goodyear set up this plant with the assistance of a large injection of funds from the Italian State;
 4. Deplores the fact that, increasingly, factories are being closed down not because of market crises but for reasons directly connected to globalisation,
 5. Calls on Goodyear, and any other undertaking that has received state or Community funding, to repay the money in question if, as in this case, such funds have been used solely for the multinational's financial operations;
 6. Calls on the Commission to adopt rules that (a) oblige multinationals to honour the commitments made to employees' organisations and (b) establish penalties for failure to comply with Community rules;

7. Calls on the Commission to consider the possibility of obliging firms to repay any concessionary funding received if they do not abide by the agreements reached with the bodies providing such funds;
8. Requests its President to forward this resolution to the Italian Government and the management of Goodyear.