

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0795/00
by Stephen Hughes (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Lucent Technologies

In mid-1999 Angela Elliot Mathis, a British citizen and a senior executive and board member of Lucent Technologies in Belgium, was dismissed without warning and with no reason given for the dismissal. She had been 'head hunted' from outside Belgium into the company just 13 months earlier because of her excellent record in the IT sector and her record of performance with the company offers no explanation for her dismissal. Under Belgian law she had no protection or rights against dismissal under these conditions.

Does the Commission agree that individuals will be increasingly unlikely to take advantage of the possibility to move and work wherever they like within the EU unless minimum social guarantees, such as those on individual dismissals, are put in place throughout the EU?