

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0269/03  
by Giacomo Santini (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Loss of jobs on the borders with CEECs

The accession of the Central and Eastern European Countries, scheduled for May 2004, will inevitably result in the loss of hundreds of jobs in the border services that have until now handled customs operations, transport and related services.

On certain borders, such as Italy's eastern border with Slovenia, unemployment will hit over 90% of those at present employed in the forwarding sector and services relating to it, and will also have a range of knock-on effects.

Added to the tangible problem of the loss of jobs and the crises likely to ensue in many families will be the economic damage occasioned by the loss of the skills of entire categories of worker, which will result in the dissipation of a human and cultural heritage developed through years of work and tradition.

In the light of the above, could the Commission indicate:

1. what type of measures are envisaged for categories of worker hard hit by the momentous event which is enlargement;
2. whether it does not consider it appropriate to bring forward a proposal for a directive promoting the retraining of all those workers who will lose their jobs on what are today's external borders;
3. whether on the same basis a compensation scheme might be envisaged, by way of derogation from the rules on State aid, for companies that will have to cease operating;
4. what sort of contribution countries who are set to join the EU might be asked to make to these compensation measures?