

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3188/08  
by Klaus Hänsch (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: EU funding and the firm Vitaqua

The drinks group Hövelmann GmbH in my constituency claims that a mineral spring firm called Vitaqua based in Breuna, Hessen, is being co-financed with money from the EU and the Land of Hessen. Hövelmann GmbH fears that Vitaqua has gained a competitive advantage as a result and is thus able to offer a price that is far lower than the lowest price offered by the best dealers. Other market players in Germany are unable to compete. As a result, Hövelmann GmbH will be forced to dismiss between 50 and 100 people. It is likely that other drinks firms are facing the same problem, leading to further job losses in the region.

Is it true that the mineral spring firm Vitaqua in Breuna is receiving or has received EU funding?

If so, how much funding is involved?