

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1133/09  
by Marco Rizzo (GUE/NGL)  
to the Commission

Subject:           Eaton Monfalcone

The Eaton plant in Monfalcone forms part of the European division of an American firm which, up until 2006, had a Catalanian plant in Montornès, a German one in Nordhausen, and four plants in Italy, in Bosconero, Rivarolo, Massa and Monfalcone. These sites all employed between 300 and 400 workers. Then, one after another, the Catalan plant, the Rivarolo plant and the Massa plant were closed down, thereby revealing that its real strategy is most likely to relocate production to eastern Europe and gradually close all the other sites. Moreover, the firm is clearly not interested in tackling the current crisis in the automotive components sector through national negotiations.

1. Does the Commission intend to comment on the worrying rise in the number of companies in Europe that are relocating their operations, with relatively serious employment and social repercussions?
2. Does the Commission intend to remind Member States that they should make every effort to ensure agreements between trade unions and firms are respected?
3. How does the Commission intend to ensure that directives on collective redundancies and procedures for consultation of workers, such as 98/59/EC<sup>1</sup> and 94/45/EC<sup>2</sup>, which Member States have already transposed into national law, are complied with?

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 225, 12.8.1998, p. 16.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 254, 30.9.1994, p. 64.