

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2640/09
by Donata Gottardi (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Closing of the Eurallumina plant in Sardinia

The Commission's attention should be drawn to the situation of the Eurallumina plant in Sardinia, an alumina refinery in the Portovesme area which was commissioned in 1973, has an annual output of 1.1 million tonnes and directly employs 1000 workers.

The current economic recession is having the effect of running down Sardinia's manufacturing sector, hence the decision by senior management at the Eurallumina company to suspend production for 12 months, starting on 1 March 2009.

The closing down of the plant will involve initiating redundancy procedures for directly and indirectly employed workers, which will have major social implications, while halting production, and consequently closing down the plant, could result in pipes becoming encrusted and blocked, with a serious possibility of definitive closure of the facility.

Eurallumina is the only facility in the Mediterranean producing aluminium oxide. Its closure – whether temporary or, possibly, definitive – would mean the loss of a strategic industrial facility in the Mediterranean basin region and would deprive the adjacent Alcoa primary aluminium plant of its main supplier, thus placing the continuity of its own output seriously at risk.

In the light of the foregoing, would the Commission state whether, given the strategic importance of this plant, it considers that it would be appropriate for it to support the actions being proposed and carried out at local level, and to initiatives which might be taken by the national and regional governments and social partners, and to declare its own interest in maintaining the facility?