

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3537/09

by Vincenzo Lavarra (PSE) and Pier Antonio Panzeri (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: The Alcatel Lucent industrial estate in Battipaglia (Salerno, Italy)

The Alcatel Lucent industrial estate in Battipaglia (Salerno, Italy) is an industrial hub of excellence and European prominence in the telecommunications and research sector. It currently has some 500 employees, who have acquired high levels of knowledge and professional skills. More specifically, over 180 workers are involved in Research and Development and industrial production activities in the optical transmission sector.

On Friday, 10 April 2009, the Italian trade unions were informed of an outsourcing plan, whereby the production site of Alcatel Battipaglia would be closed.

Over the past few years Alcatel Lucent has received substantial public aid for the Battipaglia site for the purpose of process and technological innovation; in particular, it received € 5 million over the period 1994-2006 from the European Regional Development Fund and €2.9 million in direct EU funding for the Moicane and Smacks projects.

The defence of this production site is a prerequisite for protecting the most important industrial area in the province of Salerno and for developing the telecommunications sector in Campania, in southern Italy and in the entire country.

Moreover, the closure of such an important industrial site as the one in Battipaglia, which is capable of offering innovative products, would involve not only huge job losses but also the waste of substantial EU public funds; it would mean that the knock-on effects of the projects would not be followed up and, in general, there would be no continuity in the investments made with large amounts of EU funding.

In the light of the above, could the Commission clarify whether it is aware of the situation at Alcatel Lucent in Battipaglia, and what measures and checks it intends to implement to preserve the strategic productive role of the site, thereby following up the substantial investments made with EU funds?