

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3609/09
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to the Commission

Subject: Nokia Siemens Network (NSN)

Nokia Siemens Network (NSN) is a joint venture created by the merger of the Finnish company Nokia with the German company Siemens. In Italy, NSN is based in Cinisello Balsamo, Cassina de'Pecchi, Marcianise and Catania. Following this merger, in 2007 an agreement was signed at the Italian Ministry for Economic Development whereby NSN undertook to ensure that its Italian sites remained fully operational and to safeguard employment.

The Italian sites, and more specifically the research centres in Cinisello Balsamo (GSM and new generations) and Cassina de'Pecchi (Microwave), have expertise which has been perfected in over 30 years of projects; today, however, according to the NSN management, all this is no longer considered an asset in which to invest; indeed, NSN has announced: a) its decision to close, by the end of 2009, the department dealing with research, development and design of new-generation equipment; b) its decision to no longer start any new project in Italy, and c) the drastic downsizing of the entire research sector which employs some 600 people at the sites of Cinisello Balsamo and Casina de'Pecchi.

NSN has decided to establish operational headquarters and launch some new projects not only in Poland, but above all in India, China and Vietnam.

It also intends to implement this entire industrial plan with public funding of €200 million from the European Investment Bank; furthermore, Nokia has already obtained €500 million in funding from the very same EIB.

Is the Commission aware of the situation at Nokia Siemens Network (NSN)?

What measures and checks does it intend to put in place to preserve the function and the strategic production expertise of the Italian sites and to prevent substantial amounts of EU public funding from being used for relocations to non-EU countries?