Question for written answer E-005786/2012 to the Commission Rule 117 Maria Badia i Cutchet (S&D) and Alejandro Cercas (S&D)

Subject: Relocation of the National Motor-Derbi factory in Martorelles (Vallès Oriental)

Since September 2010, there have been increasing rumours and social unease about the closure of the National Motor-Derbi factory owned by Italian Piaggio Group in Martorelles (Vallès Oriental, Spain). Finally, in March 2011, the Italian multinational announced the transfer of production at the factory to one of its plants in Italy. This closure will involve the direct loss of more than 200 jobs in one of the regions most affected by the economic crisis and industrial decline.

The Martorelles plant's accounts show that it has made profits in recent financial years; it is also one of the most efficient and competitive in the group, so there is no financial justification for such a measure. In fact, since 2010 the plant has reduced its production costs by more than 11%. Moreover, this decision breaches agreements signed in 2009 between the group and the unions to maintain employment at the Martorelles plant through increased investment and enhanced competitiveness.

In view of this situation, is the Commission, through its European Restructuring Monitor (ERM) observatory, aware of the threat to this plant and this area? Does the Commission have any instrument to ensure respect for both workers' rights and the commitments made in the social dialogue with European Economic Area countries? Does the Commission believe that Europe should use European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) resources in the future to help deal with similarly difficult cases, where, if relocation occurs, the area will suffer a very significant loss of both direct and indirect employment?

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