

**Question for written answer E-003377/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL) and Elisa Ferreira (S&D)**

Subject: Situation at Açomonta

In the last few days the Luxembourgish trade union OGB-L has accused the Portuguese company Açomonta (which has a branch in Differdange, Luxembourg) of practising 'modern slavery'. Over the past two years, the company has used several contractors which have sent Portuguese workers or workers resident in Portugal to work in Luxembourg, on its behalf. The trade union claims that these workers receive EUR 300–700 per month instead of the legal Luxembourgish salary (around EUR 2400 gross) and work hours that do not comply with the mandatory statutory rest period. The trade union also claims that these workers are not being paid for overtime and that they are housed in 'inhumane conditions' in warehouses in France, on the border with Luxembourg. Furthermore, the same source reports that workers who find themselves in this situation are unable to assert their rights, since the company threatens them with deportation from Luxembourg.

1. What information does the Commission have on this situation? What is its assessment of it?
2. Has Açomonta received any kind of EU aid? For what purpose was aid granted and what undertakings were given when it was received? If undertakings have been given, does the Commission believe these are being broken by the company management?
3. Does it believe that the Posting of Workers Directive is being violated in this case?
4. Is it aware of possible steps that are being taken to put a stop to this unacceptable worker exploitation?