

**Question for written answer E-008114/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Mass redundancies at the Częstochowa steelworks

The management of ISD Częstochowa steelworks, the city's largest employer, have announced that there are to be mass redundancies at the plant, with between 1000 and 1500 jobs being shed. The company has been in severe financial difficulties since 2009. Production and sales currently stand at around one-third of capacity. The lay-offs at the steelworks will hit an already shrinking Częstochowa labour market extremely hard. Unemployment in the city has already topped the 14% mark and stands at 22.1% for the Częstochowa region as a whole.

1. In its resolution of 13 December 2012 on the EU steel industry (P7_TA(2012)0509) Parliament stressed how important it was for the Commission to keep a close eye on the situation in Europe's steel industry, in particular in Silesia, where Częstochowa is located. In view of this, can the Commission say whether it is aware of the situation at the Częstochowa steelworks?
2. Will the Commission be doing anything to help the steelworkers who are to be laid off, and if so, what?
3. Has it received an application from the Polish Government for funding under the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for workers who lose their jobs, as well as under the European Social Fund?
4. Will it be putting forward proposals for maintaining a strong steel industry in the EU, in view of the important role played by plants such as the Częstochowa steelworks?
5. Will it be bringing the prior surveillance system for imports of steel products and steel pipes, as established under Commission Regulation (EU) No 1241/2009, back into force?