Question for written answer E-014040/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Giommaria Uggias (ALDE)

Subject: Intercompany relations between Meridiana Fly and Air Italy and breach of employees' terms of employment

The Meridiana group has been in crisis for several years, forcing the group's senior management to lay off thousands of employees (1 350 at Meridiana Fly, 180 at Air Italy and 170 Meridiana Maintenance staff). In order to bring about the company's recovery, the group acquired the carrier Air Italy in autumn 2011, integrating it in its own group division. The new acquisition should have made the company more competitive and efficient, simultaneously creating the conditions for business recovery. Two years on, what appeared to be a company rescue mission has actually turned out to be an exercise in dumping. This has involved flight operations being gradually switched from the Meridiana Fly division to the Air Italy division, with Meridiana Fly aircraft being partially decommissioned and new aircraft consequently being purchased for Air Italy; it has also involved cutting staff costs, as Air Italy issues less onerous contracts. Since 2012, an increasing number of flights with the airline designator IG (Meridiana Fly) have been scheduled and operated using Air Italy staff and aircraft.

Moreover, a memo dated 25 November 2013, sent by Meridiana group' chief executive officer, Roberto Scaramella, to Meridiana Fly employees, sets out the prospect of all aircrews no longer being employed by Meridiana Fly and instead being employed by Air Italy, on terms imposed by the company and with an employment contract that is less onerous for the carrier and negotiated with only a few unions (UIL, AMPAV, AMPAC). Since the workers currently laid off under the wage guarantee fund will start to be made redundant in spring 2015, when there will be less welfare cover, Meridiana Fly employees have to choose between being made redundant or working for the same group's second carrier, on poorer and more onerous terms.

1. Does the Commission think that Meridiana Fly's decision to use aircraft and crews from another division of the group (Air Italy), with the resulting transfer of production activity, is right, while its own employees are laid off under the wage guarantee fund

2. Can a company (Air Italy) in crisis with workers laid off under the special wage guarantee fund, as authorised by the National Institute of Social Insurance, take on staff, without first using its own staff laid down under the special wage guarantee fund, as it is required to, or, failing that, Meridiana Fly group staff, but maintaining all the safeguards provided for by the contract signed by the controlling company?