

**Question for written answer E-000932/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Sergio Gaetano Cofferati (S&D) and Pier Antonio Panzeri (S&D)

Subject: Electrolux

The multinational Electrolux, world leader in the production of domestic appliances, with its own offices in 26 EU countries and significant production sites in eight countries, is implementing a strategy of growing reductions in staff employed in Europe, down from 28 130 workers in 2008 to 21 600 at the end of 2012. In addition, it has an ongoing policy of delocalisation of production sites within the EU but without striking a sound management balance for the whole group, so that there has been a sharp decrease in sites in Western European countries, especially Italy.

In view of the fact that Electrolux has recently made continuing production at the four Italian works, Porcia, Forlì, Solaro and Susegana, subject to acceptance by the workforce of a 40% reduction in their salaries and benefits, which are to fall from around 1 300 to around 750 euros per month;

also considering that the multinational justifies this stance by declaring that the proposed wage levels are those current in Eastern European countries, especially Poland;

given that this proposal is emblematic of how the interests of business and profit take undue precedence over workers' rights, contracts and laws and asserts the concept that development and economic recovery can only happen through abandoning workers' rights;

The Commission is asked:

1. Does it not believe that this policy of bringing wage levels down to the lowest common denominator is an unacceptable form of blackmail against workers and local communities;
2. Does it not think that similar conduct, if not obstructed, represents a dangerous argument in favour of the rising wave of populism and nationalism that accuses European institutions of being unable to protect citizens' interests;
3. Does it intend to set up a permanent round table for European trade union and employers' organisations or a social and economic supervisory body to prevent a recurrence of such situations;
4. What actions the Commission intends to take in the specific case in question?