Question for written answer E-002864/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Siemens Alstom merger: jobs must be the top priority

In September 2017, Alston and Siemens announced the planned merger of their rail transport and mobility operations.

The new group thus formed would have a workforce of more than 60 000 and a turnover in excess of EUR 10 billion.

It would be a world leader in its field.

However, while it will be in a position to compete with the Chinese giant CRRC on sales of rail signalling systems, its position in the rolling-stock market will be much weaker.

Will the Commission's DG Competition, in scrutinising the Siemens Alstom plan under its brief to enforce EU merger rules, take due account of Chinese companies' aggressive competitive practices?

It clearly needs to do so because, eight months on from the merger announcement, no reassurances have been given to the thousands of workers whose jobs are at plants owned by the future group in countries other than France and Germany. The fact that EUR 370 million has been earmarked for restructuring in 2019 and 2020 only adds to the uncertainty.

There could be direct consequences in the form of job losses if the new group is vulnerable in certain sectors.

At a time of mounting pressure for a genuine EU industrial strategy, is the Commission taking all these factors into account in examining the proposed merger?