

**Question for written answer E-003353/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Major imbalances in labour costs between Member States: the case of Bekaert

In 2014, the Commission declared that the acquisition by NV Bekaert SA of the entire tire steel cable sector of Pirelli Tires SpA was compatible with the rules of the internal market and in compliance with Article 6(1)(b) of the regulation on the control of mergers between companies.

Since then, Bekaert has increasingly encouraged a process of transferring technological know-how, followed by production, from its Italian and Spanish plants, which are constantly engaged in the design, development and production of new products, to plants in other Member States, primarily Slovakia and Romania.

Moreover, the company has recently divulged the significant economic losses of its plant in Figline Valdarno over past financial years.

This has led the hundreds of workers in the group to fear for their occupational future.

1. How does the Commission intend to monitor Bekaert's initiatives, having approved the acquisition of the Pirelli plants, to avoid the transfer of know-how or entire production processes from Italian or Spanish plants to other Member States as part of the corporate restructuring process?
2. What initiatives does the Commission intend to take to resolve the major imbalances in labour costs between Member States and to foster the development of a more balanced European labour market?