

**Question for written answer E-003631/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Ilva and support for the Italian and European steel industry

The European steel industry employs 330 000 people, and the figure rises to 2.6 million if ancillary sectors are included.

As stated in the European Steel Action Plan adopted by the Commission in 2013, it is essential to promote steel production in Europe and encourage industrial conversion, also in the light of the EU's climate, energy and environmental commitments.

However, the sector is now bearing the brunt of US tariffs and unfair competition from China and Turkey.

Against this background, the Taranto-based firm Ilva has for years been dealing with the economic and environmental implications of a restructuring process. The cost of the crisis to Italy in terms of lost GDP is put at EUR 23 billion: production has fallen from 6 million tonnes per year to an estimated 4.5 million tonnes in 2019. Significant downsizing has reduced the number of people Ilva employs in Italy to 10 700.

1. What action will the Commission take to safeguard jobs in one of the EU's most important production hubs and maintain steel production in line with European environmental standards?
2. Should the Ilva issue not be resolved, what action will it take to prevent a disastrous decline in European steel production capacity which would skew the market decisively towards imports?