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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Vestager  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(9.10.2020)

While there have been some press articles recently regarding the Acciai Speciali Terni steelworks, the Commission cannot comment on any implications of a potential business decision of ThyssenKrupp as regards the ownership of Acciai Speciali Terni steelworks.

If ThyssenKrupp was to decide to sell or in any way change the ownership of the Acciai Speciali Terni steelworks, the Commission would look into whether such reorganisation or sale is not in breach of any potential outstanding obligations that ThyssenKrupp may have undertaken following the remedy implementation process<sup>1</sup> in the Outokumpu/Inoxum merger<sup>2</sup>.

The individual commercial decisions by firms to expand or reduce production and jobs are not subject to EU controls. However, the Commission encourages the proactive and socially responsible management of restructuring operations by companies and all actors involved, in line with the EU Quality Framework for anticipation of change and restructuring<sup>3</sup>.

In the event of any dismissals, those affected are likely to qualify for professional training, coaching in the search for new employment or support for new professional pathways under Italian national programmes funded by the European Social Fund (ESF). Moreover, there are also the opportunities provided by the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)<sup>4</sup> that provides support to workers made redundant as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation or in cases that result from a global economic and financial crisis.

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<sup>1</sup> M.7138 Thyssenkrupp/Acciai Speciali Terni/Outokumpu VDM (decision available here: [https://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/decisions/m7138\\_20140212\\_20310\\_3528780\\_EN.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/decisions/m7138_20140212_20310_3528780_EN.pdf)).

<sup>2</sup> M.6471 Outokumpu/Inoxum (decision available here: [https://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/decisions/m6471\\_14897\\_2.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/decisions/m6471_14897_2.pdf)).

<sup>3</sup> COM (2013) 882 final of 13.12.2013.

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013, OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 855.