

Question for written answer E-004871/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Javi López (S&D)

Subject: Situation at the Saint-Gobain Glass plant in L'Arboç

Saint-Gobain's management has announced the closure of the Glass plant in L'Arboç, while confirming that the Sekurit division will remain in operation. The glass manufacturer plans to lay off some 122 workers. The management's decision to cease activity at the plant is based on its claim that its furnace has reached the end of its useful life and that the market is saturated. However, trade union sources say that the furnace still has useful life and that the company's aim is to close the plant in L'Arboç since the Sekurit division is dependent on the production equipment of the Saint-Gobain Glass.

The closure of the plant threatens 800 families who depend directly and indirectly on the factory in the Baix Penedès region, which has one of the highest unemployment rates in Catalonia. Regard being had to Article 2 of Directive 98/59/EC on collective redundancies:

1. Is the Commission aware of the situation of Saint-Gobain Glass and does it intend to intervene in the event of closure by activating mechanisms to ensure that it continues to operate?
2. Does the Commission consider that this company could benefit from the 'Next Generation EU' funds to invest in restructuring and thus avoid closure?