

**Question for written answer E-004987/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**José Gusmão (GUE/NGL), Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Extension of the Cofaco factory

In May 2018, Cofaco closed its factory on Pico Island, laying off 162 workers while undertaking to open a new factory by January 2020, potentially increasing its workforce to 250. Having successfully obtained community funding, the company PDM invested EUR 7 million in 2019, thereby increasing the share capital by approximately EUR 2 million. Eight months after the date of the scheduled opening of the new factory and the reintegration of the workers, construction has not even begun. The former workers of the Cofaco factory on Pico Island are in a very precarious position since their unemployment benefits are coming to an end, and some of them have already ceased to receive payments. In particularly delicate times such as these, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and given the extremely fragile situation of outlying regions, this is an unsustainable situation and the lack of transparency has left many in a desperate situation with no prospects for the future.

Accordingly, since Cofaco is a beneficiary of EU aid, or at least that appears to be the case, how does the Commission plan to urge the canned fish company to honour the commitments it entered into in 2018?