

**Question for written answer E-005116/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: In 2009 Smart Mercedes received EUR 400 million in EU lending to build a factory in Hungary. In 2019 Smart closed down its car plants in France.

Slovenia has a per capita GDP of 40 600 dollars¹ (around EUR 34 000), whereas the per capita GDP in the Grand Est region of France is EUR 27 400². Despite this the Commission supports businesses relocating to Eastern Europe. Smart has announced that it will end production in Hambach, in the Moselle department, in 2022. The closure will affect 800 people.

En 2009 the Commission carried out an investigation and authorised a EUR 550 million investment which included an EIB loan of EUR 400 million and EUR 111.5 million in aid for Hungary (grants and tax reductions), a rail connection³ and land at EUR 10/m² to build a Mercedes car plant in Hungary⁴. Yet unemployment in that region (8%) was much lower than in the Moselle department (25%)⁵.

At the Renault factory⁶ in Novo Mesto, Slovenia, Smart makes the Clio and Smart cars and employs 3 000 people. In 2013 the Slovenian Government initially notified to the Commission financing of EUR 38 million (out of EUR 265 million) to set up this car plant and create 168 jobs⁷.

1. What amounts were ultimately allocated by Slovenia for the establishment of this plant?
2. Since 2010, what amounts has the Commission in Brussels allocated from the various European funds for the operations of Smart, Renault and Mercedes in Eastern Europe?

¹ <https://data.oecd.org/slovenia.htm> (<https://data.oecd.org/fr/slovenie.htm>)

² (2015) <https://www.prefectures-regions.gouv.fr/grand-est/Region-et-institutions/Portrait-de-la-region/Chiffres-cles/Les-chiffres-cles-en-region-Grand-Est> ((2015) <https://www.prefectures-regions.gouv.fr/grand-est/Region-et-institutions/Portrait-de-la-region/Chiffres-cles/Les-chiffres-cles-en-region-Grand-Est>)

³ https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases/229017/229017_1036728_81_1.pdf
(https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases/229017/229017_1036728_81_1.pdf)

⁴ Together with with Chinese automotive group Geely, Mercedes is the majority shareholder in Smart.
https://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/case_details.cfm?proc_code=3_SA_27308
(https://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/case_details.cfm?proc_code=3_SA_27308)

⁵ <http://www.linternaute.com/ville/classement/villes/chomage/2009?page=7>
(<http://www.linternaute.com/ville/classement/villes/chomage/2009?page=7>)

⁶ <https://group.renault.com/en/our-company/locations/novo-mesto-revoz-plant/>
(<https://group.renault.com/groupe/implantations/usine-novo-mesto-revoz/>)

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases/249228/249228_1545570_29_2.pdf
(https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases/249228/249228_1545570_29_2.pdf)