Question for written answer E-003692/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Surprise closure of Timken company in Brescia: 106 employees laid off

Another multinational in the mechanical engineering sector has decided to close down a production site in Italy. In the wake of the GKN case in Campi Bisenzio, this time it was Timken, of Villa Carcina, near Brescia, to inform workers of the immediate closure of the plant. 106 workers have now lost their jobs and, since yesterday, are now on strike and holding an ongoing sit-in.

The US multinational produces engineered bearings for power transmission and, owing to more than a century of knowledge and innovation, is among the market leaders. The Villa Carcina plant, which produces single-row tapered roller bearings for the off-road vehicle and railway market, was opened in 1978 and acquired by Timken in 1996.

In view of this:

1. What measures will the Commission take to protect workers from being made redundant in such a manner by large multinationals?

2. In its view, would it be possible to mobilise the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund or any other European instruments to support these workers?

3. Can it say whether the Timken Group has benefited in recent years from EU funds to open manufacturing centres in countries with lower labour costs, thereby facilitating the relocation of production?