

EN
E-003953/2021
Answer given by Mr Schmit
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.11.2021)

1. The EU provides funding for a broad range of programmes in almost all areas. Regarding employment and support to companies European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) are relevant. ESF and ERDF Operational Programmes (OPs) are based on the principle of shared management. Member States have the responsibility to implement them and provide financial support to beneficiaries. The Commission is involved in monitoring, including the analysis of the annual implementation reports, as well as committing and paying out approved expenditure and verifying the functioning of the management and control systems set up by the national authorities.

Based on Regulation EU No 1303/2013¹, Member States must provide regular and complete information about EU funded projects and beneficiaries. GKN Group received ESF funds for professional training²; details are publicly available and can be directly requested to the Managing Authority (MA) of ESF OP Toscana³.

2. Eligibility criteria and selection procedures are established by the MA and approved by the Monitoring Committee and must be transparent and non-discriminatory. The conditions for all beneficiaries, including the GKN Group, to access ESF and ERDF funds must therefore be public and provided by the MA of the OPs Toscana⁴.

3. With regard to layoffs, the Commission does not plan a legislative proposal in this area. When contemplating collective redundancies, employers have to comply with national rules transposing Directive 98/59/EC⁵ relating to collective redundancies and European Works Council Directive⁶. It is for the competent national authorities to ensure that the national rules are correctly and effectively applied in practice by individual companies.

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320–469

² EUR 124.001,81 in the form of State aid.

³ E-mail address: settorefse@regione.toscana.it. No ERDF resources were given to GKN. For more details contact the ERDF managing authority: autoritagesionecreo@regione.toscana.it

⁴ Article 71 of the EU 1303/2013 (OJ 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320–469) lays down specific conditions on durability of operations to be respected for infrastructure and productive investments.

⁵ OJ L 225, 12.8.1998, p. 16–21.

⁶ Directive 2009/38/EC, OJ L 122, 16.5.2009, p. 28–44.