

**Question for written answer E-001471/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Safeguarding jobs by keeping LARCO afloat

The Greek Government is currently engaged in the winding up of the LARCO company, which is being knowingly undersold to powerful monopolistic groups, riding roughshod over protests from the entire workforce and disregarding widespread public concern.

This is despite a recent surge in the price of nickel to a new record of over USD 101 000 per tonne on the London Metal Exchange, where is expected to remain consistently high, while LARCO has a production capacity of 18 000 tonnes of nickel annually.

Indeed, it is the only EU company mining domestically owned ferronickel deposits, supplying over 5% of the European market.

It is against this backdrop that the Government is approving collective redundancies followed by the reinstatement of workers up to the age of 54 under three-month contracts.

In the light of this:

1. What view does the Commission take of calls by the LARCO workforce for the company to continue to operate on the same basis, modernising its methods to increase production, while ensuring safety at work, reinstatement of the workforce and compliance with all obligations towards it, including job security for all, even in the event of unsuccessful tendering?
2. What does it think of the terms, conditions and safeguards surrounding the sale of the EU's only nickel and cobalt ore deposits and its only pyrometallurgical plant?
3. Does it agree that the inadmissible fines imposed by the European Court of Justice in response to proceedings initiated by the Commission itself should be overturned?