Concerning the European instrument for temporary support to mitigate unemployment risks in an emergency (SURE), it has provided loan support for short-time work schemes, similar measures and, as an ancillary, health-related measures in Portugal. SURE acts as a second line of defence to help Member States protect jobs and workers. It is non-intrusive, respecting national competences regarding the design of social security systems and measures in this field, including which individuals or companies receive support. The Commission does not request this detailed information from Member States as it would exceed the scope of the SURE Regulation¹.

Concerning the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF), the Commission has not received an application from Portugal requesting funding to support workers laid-off by Brintons. The Honourable Member may wish to refer to the EGF contact persons² for Portugal to find out if an application is planned.

The Common Provisions Regulation includes provisions to prevent the relocation of companies receiving European Structural and Investment funds (ESIF). Under Article 71 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013³, an operation comprising investment in infrastructure or productive investment shall repay the contribution from the ESIF, if within five years or within the period set out in State aid rules, the productive activity is relocated outside the programme area. This applies to the 2014-2020 programming period (until the end of 2023). A similar provision, under Article 65 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁴, applies for the 2021-2027 programming period. Also, expenditure supporting relocation is not eligible for a contribution from the funds⁵ and, when selecting operations, national authorities must ensure that operations do not include activities that were part of an operation subject to relocation⁶.

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² The relevant EGF contact details can be found on the EGF website under ‘How to Apply’: https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=581&langId=en
⁵ Article 66 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1060.
⁶ Article 73.2 (h) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1060