

**Question for written answer E-000844/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Isabella Adinolfi (PPE)

Subject: Urgent action to protect the EU's fibre-optics industry and support businesses and workers

The Prysmian Group, a leader in the field of energy and telecommunications cables and systems, has announced the closure of the FOS fibre-optic production plant in Battipaglia, Salerno. The plant, which employs around 340 workers, is an important technological resource for Italy and the EU as a whole. The decision was influenced by high energy costs and adverse global market conditions, compounded by unfair competition from non-EU countries with lower production costs, lower quality and less stringent regulations. This scenario is a threat to EU industry, technological innovation and job security.

It is imperative that urgent action be taken to support the EU companies and workers affected, by determining support measures that are effective and accessible. Unfair competition from outside the EU needs to be addressed, with consideration given to customs duties or other trade protections in order to balance market conditions.

In the light of the above:

1. What immediate action will the Commission take to provide concrete support to the EU companies and workers affected by the closure of production plants such as Prysmian Group's?
2. How does it plan to tackle the unfair competition from non-EU countries that is threatening EU industry?
3. What initiatives are under way to mitigate the impact of energy costs on energy-intensive industries in the EU and ensure their global competitiveness?

Submitted: 19.3.2024