

ORAL QUESTION H-0193/04

for Question Time at the part-session in April 2004

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Carlos Lage

to the Commission

Subject: Closure of the Bombardier company's European plants

The Canadian group Bombardier has recently announced its intention to close seven of its European production plants: those at Amadora (Portugal), Derby Pride Park, Doncaster and Wakefield (UK), Ammendorf (Germany), Kalmar (Sweden) and Pratteln (Switzerland). Such closures are part of the company's restructuring plan, which involves the dismissal over the next two years of 6.600 workers in various parts of the world, though principally (86% of the total) in Europe. In Portugal, closure of the Bombardier factory in Amadora will put nearly 400 people out of work and will also affect jobs at, and the economic viability of, various related companies.

At a time when Europe is preparing to launch vital railway projects, strategic intervention is called for in order to ensure that Bombardier and other, similar companies continue to operate in EU countries, thereby safeguarding jobs and furthering technological development. What action is the Commission proposing to take in this area?

Is the Commission not concerned at the serious implications which closure of the Bombardier plant in Portugal will have?

Tabled: 31.03.2004

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