

ORAL QUESTION H-0397/04

for Question Time at the part-session in November 2004

pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure

by Sérgio Ribeiro

to the Commission

Subject: Multinational relocations and rising unemployment

The prevailing social situation in Portugal is both complex and disturbing: unemployment, above all longterm and amongst young graduates, is rising; short-term jobs are on the increase; and the problems faced by workers and the least-favoured sectors of society are worsening. One company after another is relocating, leaving hundreds of workers and their families plunged into poverty and social exclusion. Such companies include: Texas Instruments Samsung Electrónica Portugal, Nestlé/Longa Vida, ERU, Alcoa and Bombardier Portugal. Their objectives are clear: to destroy existing production capacity, maintain their Portuguese markets, prevent competitors from strengthening their market position, and continue to increase profits. Furthermore, many of these companies received subsidies from national and Community funds, benefiting from set-up and manufacturing agreements containing highly advantageous economic and financial conditions. This means that we need to find an effective political response which will prevent a recurrence of this kind of situation.

What steps does the Commission intend to take to curb closures and relocation by multinationals, in order to defend quality job creation and workers' rights?

Tabled: 03.11.2004

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