

ORAL QUESTION H-0723/06  
for Question Time at the part-session in September II 2006  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Jacky Henin  
to the Commission

Subject: Action to combat the speculative movement of short-term capital investments

The firm of Tréfinmétaux, which is part of the Italian group KME and specialises in copper processing, is to relocate its French-based smelting and laminating operations to Germany and Italy, at a cost of 215 jobs. This decision makes no sense from the point of view of the firm's competitiveness, since the German factory is less productive and labour costs there are higher. The decision taken by KME, under pressure from the finance company INTEK which requires rates of return of 18%, will drive customers into the arms of non-EU suppliers. The problem is due to unscrupulous shareholders who compromise the firm's strategy and its very existence to get a return on their short-term speculative investments.

What does the Commission propose to do to combat this pernicious short-term speculative movement of capital which destroys jobs and blights industrial development in the EU?

Tabled: 28.08.2006  
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