

ORAL QUESTION O-0013/00

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

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to the Commission

Subject:           Restructuring of ALSTOM-ABB POWER

The Commission has approved the merger of the ABB and ALSTOM groups, which are active in the energy production sector and which will combine to form ABB-ALSTOM POWER, the world leader in its field.

The strategy announced by those who will be running the new group has awoken fears amongst its employees regarding the possibility of major restructuring: out of a total workforce of 58 000 (including 34 000 in Europe), between 10 000 and 12 000 jobs are thought to be under threat and EUR 700 m has reportedly been set aside to finance the redundancy plan.

Such restructuring is not the only possible option: in 1998, both groups achieved sizeable (and increasing) operating surpluses.

The representatives of the employees (who come from eight different EU countries) jointly condemn the lack of comprehensive information from those who will be running the new group.

In view of the above, would the Commission answer the following questions?

- On the basis of what information concerning the group's industrial durability and possible restructuring exercises did the Commission deliver an opinion authorising a merger between the two groups?
- What binding conditions is the Commission intending to impose in order to ensure compliance with the requirements for the employees to be informed and consulted pursuant to Directive 94/45/EC whilst the new group's own conciliation and negotiation structures are being set up?

Tabled: 27.01.2000

Forwarded: 31.01.2000

Deadline for reply: 07.02.2000