

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0034/05

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Francis Wurtz, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Harlem Désir, on behalf of the PSE Group, Hélène Flautre, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
to the Commission

Subject: Redundancies at Alstom

On 7 July 2004, the Commission approved the management's plan for the restructuring of the Alstom group, enabling Alstom to continue to operate. Under the approved conditions, Alstom was viable.

Only a few months later, on 15 December 2004, the management of the Alstom group announced further redundancies, this time approximately 350 in France and Germany. The most jobs were to be lost at Vélizy in France, where 200 jobs out of a total of 250 were to go, thus destroying the future prospects of this research centre which focuses particularly on clean energy. It also has serious implications for the Stuttgart establishment.

What is the Commission's position regarding this additional restructuring which was not provided for in the plan for the rescue of Alstom drawn up in the spring of 2004, and what measures will the Commission take to prevent these redundancies and the closure of the Vélizy establishment at a time when the Commission claims to be setting the objectives for becoming the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world and objectives for sustainable development and full employment in Europe?

Tabled: 10.03.2005

Forwarded: 14.03.2005

Deadline for reply: 21.03.2005