

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0314/04
by Ulpu Iivari (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Effect of EU support on the shift of jobs within the EU

Wärtsilä Oyj, a public limited company, is transferring its engine production from Turku in Finland to Trieste in Italy. What is happening in this case is that production and jobs are shifting from one Member State to another. Under certain circumstances support channelled via the EU Structural Funds can also lead to a situation in which companies are tempted to relocate production based in one EU country to another enjoying more attractive levels of support. The overall impact of such relocation can be very considerable in the country losing production and jobs.

1. What kind of action does the Commission believe to be necessary to ensure that, instead of causing jobs to shift from one part of the EU to another, Structural Fund and other forms of EU support serve to create new jobs?
2. What steps will the Commission take to harmonise protection against dismissal for employees and the dismissal costs incurred by employers within the EU area?