

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1707/08
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to the Commission

Subject: Lublin sugar factory, Poland

In recent weeks, there have been a great number of reports in the Polish media about the strike by workers at the Lublin sugar factory, which belongs to Krajowa Spółka Cukrowa S.A. (KSC S.A.), Poland's national sugar company. The strike follows the announcement by KSC S.A. of the decision to close down production at its Lublin factory and lay off 300 permanent employees and 100 seasonal workers.

The supervisory board of KSC S.A. decided to close the factory because of the production limits imposed on Poland by the European Union. In taking the decision, however, the board ignored two crucial arguments in favour of keeping the Lublin factory open. The first is the quality of the product. In the last harvest, the best-quality sugar was produced by the Lublin sugar factory. Lublin sugar is not only the best produced by KSC S.A. but in the whole of Poland. As much as 99% of the sugar produced by the Lublin sugar factory was classified as EU category 1 sugar. The second argument is an economic one. The Lublin sugar factory delivered the best economic performance among its counterparts belonging to the KSC, while the region is one of the poorest in the entire European Union.

In the light of the above, will the Commission acquaint itself with the situation and help the striking workers of the Lublin sugar factory, particularly as Krajowa Spółka Cukrowa S.A. took this decision without following the correct procedure and in breach of the rules in force?