

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4423/08  
by Bogdan Golik (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Controversial statement by a Commission official

As a Member of the European Parliament and someone who for many years was an entrepreneur and Vice-President of the Polish Chamber of Commerce, I should like to express my concern and seek further information regarding the controversial statement about State aid to the Szczecin shipyard which Mr Karl Soukup made on 20 June 2008 at the meeting held in Brussels between a delegation from the Ulstein Group and DG COMP. The following note relating to that meeting has been published in the Polish media: 'In response to the question concerning the suggested purchase price for the Szczecin shipyard, Mr Soukup stated that, in the light of the shipyard's liabilities and substantial losses, that price should not be very high. In that connection, he asked why the Ulstein Group was not considering purchasing the assets of the company which operates the shipyard on completion of the compulsory liquidation procedure which would probably be initiated following the decisions providing for repayment of the aid. He emphasised that in such an event no aid for the restructuring of the shipyard would be made available, but that support could be granted in the form of regional aid intended to fund new investments and the creation of new jobs'.

That statement amounts to suggesting that the Ulstein Group should wait until the shipyard went bankrupt before making any investments, an approach damaging to the interests of the operating company. Accordingly, can the Commission state whether such a proposal was in fact made? If the information published by the Polish media is correct, it points to behaviour on the part of Commission officials which should lay them open to disciplinary action. Could the Commission provide suitable explanations?

The press article referred to above is available at the following address:  
[http://wiadomosci.onet.pl/1785936,11,typ\\_przedstawiciel\\_ke\\_chcial\\_upadku\\_polskich\\_stoczni,item.html](http://wiadomosci.onet.pl/1785936,11,typ_przedstawiciel_ke_chcial_upadku_polskich_stoczni,item.html)