

WRITTEN QUESTION P-6977/08  
by Monica Giuntini (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Crisis in the car parts industry in Tuscany

The current economic and financial crisis is having a serious impact on all sectors, particularly the production of cars and car components.

In Tuscany, especially along the coast, car production and subcontracting for it are one of the main sectors of the economy, in terms both of economics and above all of employment, some 3000 people being directly or indirectly employed by the car industry.

Because of the crisis, the whole car parts industry in Tuscany (Magna, TRW, Pierburg, Brovedani, Inalfa, Continental) is increasingly making use of the wage compensation scheme in rotation for a substantial number of workers and it is becoming common for workers themselves who are on fixed-term contracts or atypical contracts not to be re-employed; at least 300 people have already lost their jobs.

Specifically, the workers of the Delphi group have been drawing benefits from the wage compensation fund for some two and a half years, yet no satisfactory solution has yet been found for their redeployment.

Various companies, including Brovedani in Guasticce (where the company has a production unit with 35 employees, forming part of a group which employs 600), now face a crisis due to the closure of the multinational Eaton in Massa Carrara.

Can the Commission ask the Member State in question to intervene rapidly to save the industry, bearing in mind, inter alia, the decisions taken by the European Council concerning the economic crisis, and involving the EIB?

Can the Commission urgently review the criteria for activating the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund to make it possible to support the car components industry in other ways in addition to measures to find new employment for its workers?