

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3223/09  
by Vincent Peillon (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Community policy on the European microelectronics sector

The French and European microelectronics sector, which is vital for the future of our economy, has for some time been going through a period of change, accelerated and aggravated by the economic crisis. Many European companies are affected, and even our flagships, particularly the French ones, as I recently discovered on a visit to ATMEL in Rousset (Bouches-du-Rhône), are not spared.

1. Europe clearly has major advantages in international competition, but if the Community fails to take public action there is no guarantee that this high value-added activity will continue on our continent. The European Union must support its companies in the face of numerous challenges. I believe that in the area of microelectronics it is vital to regain the offensive, in the spirit of the Lisbon Strategy. Does the Commission intend to set out an industrial strategy specifically for the microelectronics sector? If so, what would be the main lines of action?

2. In particular, what specific measures does the Commission intend to take to avoid companies which are profitable, and which sometimes receive Community aid, closing their factories in Europe, as is the case with ATMEL?