

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3564/09  
by Klaus Hänsch (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: EU subsidies for the firm Bauer Druck Köln

According to employees of the Cologne firm Bauer Druck Köln KG, EU funding totalling €47 million has been paid since 2005 to the owners of the Bauer Media Group to assist it in setting up a new printing works in the Polish city of Nowogrodzic - a city which suffers from structural weakness - around 30 km from the German-Polish border near Görlitz. Since this printing works in Poland began operations, the situation with regard to orders at the printing works in Cologne has increasingly worsened, according to those employed there.

Is it correct that the €47 million referred to is EU money? When taking such decisions on subsidies for structurally weak regions, does the Commission take into account the risks associated with a change of location/job relocation? Why did it decide to grant a subsidy in this case?