

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3654/09
by Markus Pieper (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Subsidies paid to the firm BDN Sp. Z o.o Sp.k

In December 2008 the European Commission approved the payment of subsidies totalling € 47 million by the Polish State to the firm BDN Sp. Z o.o Sp.k, in order to provide funding for the construction of a printing works in Poland.

Since the printing works in Poland came on stream, however, printers in the Cologne plant run by the Bauer Media Group, to which the firm referred to above belongs, have been short of work. According to information passed on to me, the situation is so bad that contracts with some longstanding staff members are not being renewed.

Did the Commission take this development, which amounts to job relocation, into account in its subsidy approval procedure? In the light of these job losses in Germany, what view does the Commission take of the subsidies paid to BDN Sp. Z o.o Sp.k?

EU law on structural aid prohibits the provision of Community support for job relocation measures within the EU (Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006¹).

Did BDN Sp. Z o.o Sp.k receive EU structural aid, or were the Polish subsidies co-financed by the EU? In the case described here, to what extent did the Commission take the ban on providing support for job relocation measures into account?

¹ OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 25.