

**Question for written answer P-001960/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Rina Ronja Kari (GUE/NGL)

Subject: EU funding for the relocation of operations

A number of Danish firms have received EU Structural Fund monies for production facilities in Poland, including Royal Greenland, Carlsberg, Flügger and LM Wind Power. According to the Danish trade union 3F, the EU funding has been used to relocate several hundred Danish jobs.

For instance, 3F points out that Royal Greenland relocated 110 jobs from Denmark to Poland in 2008 after receiving DKK 53 million in support for production facilities in Poland¹.

In 2012, in a letter concerning relocation by tea producer Twinning from the United Kingdom to Poland, Commissioner Johannes Hahn stated that firms should not receive EU funding for investment which would lead to job losses in those firms in another region of the EU. In addition, Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 on the European Regional Development Fund states that 'Community funding does not support relocation within the European Union'.

I am aware that Commissioner Hahn's spokesperson, Shirin Wheeler, has stated that the Commission is willing to launch an investigation into the specific cases concerned.

Accordingly:

1. Is the Commission carrying out checks as to whether firms are making improper use of EU funding in order to relocate jobs from one Member State to another? If so, how are such checks carried out?
2. Can the Commission give an assurance that there have been no similar instances where monies have been improperly used? If the Commission is unable to give such an assurance, does it intend to carry out an investigation into the extent of improper use of EU monies?
3. What new measures will the Commission take to put an end to this type of improper use of EU monies?

¹ http://www.fagbladet3f.dk/temaer/polsk_jobfest/d60c6f0f99814f549116925d4f3f3cf5-20140213-eu-penge-kostede-110-job-i-fisken