

**Question for written answer P-002863/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Siemens Alstom merger: workers must be fully informed and consulted

Following the announcement that Siemens and Alstom will merge by the end of 2018, it is fair to assume that talks about achieving synergies are proceeding apace.

Yet, although it is now eight months since the merger was announced, the trade unions concerned are largely in the dark as to plans for safeguarding employment and securing the conglomerate's various European production sites.

This is, however, a massive issue. While the merger agreement would appear to protect jobs in Germany and France, there has been no word about those at the plants in other Member States. At Alstom alone, this means almost 18 000 workers in EU countries other than France and Germany are facing uncertainty.

The fact that the agreement provides for EUR 370 million to be spent on restructuring in 2019 and 2020 only makes that uncertainty more acute.

Under EU law, employers have certain basic obligations in terms of informing, consulting and involving workers in such situations. Directives 2009/38/EC and 2005/56/EC, for example, provide for employee participation at transnational level.

With memories of the Caterpillar debacle still fresh, can the Commission give an assurance that the EU rules on informing and consulting workers are being applied in full in relation to this merger, affecting as it does the jobs of more than 60 000 people in Europe?