Priority question for written answer P-003256/2023/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Privatisation of EFACEC and the European Commission's involvement in this process

The Portuguese Government has announced that EFACEC will be handed over to the German investment fund Mutares, with a further EUR 200 million still to be invested by the State also thrown in.

One of Portugal's leading industrial companies is being handed to Mutares on a silver platter (the little investment made by the fund is in the capital of the company it is buying) – a company that is capitalised, that has credit and guarantees, highly skilled workers, research capacity, that is a market leader in various industries and that has orders worth hundreds of millions of euro in its portfolio.

Clearly, this decision is seriously detrimental to national interests.

The Minister of the Economy, António Costa Silva was quoted in the press as saying that the European Commission, through DG COMP, has been involved throughout the negotiations that have led to this outcome. Reports suggest that the European Commission approved the transaction as it passed the so-called 'market test'.

1. Can the Commission provide detailed information on its involvement in this privatisation process, in particular, in its outcome, and how is this involvement justified?

2. What type of 'approval' was given to this deal and what criteria did it depend on?

3. Has the European Commission sought to impose this solution – which results in an even greater concentration of capital, in particular favouring German big business – on the Portuguese Government?

Submitted:6.11.2023