

**Priority question for written answer P-000120/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Kateřina Konečná (The Left)

Subject: Alarming situation at Liberty Ostrava steelworks

The Liberty Ostrava New Steelworks have been completely closed down since December. The largest steel producer in the Czech Republic directly employs 6 000 people and indirectly provides work for tens of thousands. This situation threatens to destabilise social harmony in the in the region. The company is crushed by the financial problems of its owner GFG, which were themselves also caused by the implementation of Green Deal measures, expensive energy and the struggle to compete following the botched sale of the steelworks, which was endorsed by the Commission under EU competition measures. As a result, direct competitors of the Liberty Ostrava steelworks got hold of its main and only energy supplier. Years ago, when GFG bought the Ostrava steelworks from ArcelorMittal, many experts pointed out that removing the sole energy supplier Tameh from the package and leaving it in the hands of the original owner was a very bad idea that would jeopardise the Czech steelworks' future. Despite this, the Commission approved the sale in the context of the ArcelorMittal proceedings. Today, the worst-case scenarios have come true, and the energy needed to supply the Czech steelworks has become the main bone of contention between the two feuding parties. Meanwhile, the employees are left in the dark.

1. I therefore ask: How does the Commission intend to address this situation, for which it also bears responsibility?
2. Does it still consider its decision to allow the New Steelworks to be purchased without its exclusive and essential energy supplier (Tameh) to be correct?

Submitted: 16.1.2024