Question for written answer E-004739/2018 to the Commission

Rule 130

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Subject: Closure of the VESTAS plant in León (Spain) - Corporate social responsibility

On 27 August 2018, the Danish company VESTAS, a wind turbine manufacturer, announced the closure of its plant in Villadangos del Páramo (León, Spain). This unexpected announcement will result in the loss of 362 direct jobs and almost 2 000 further indirect jobs. The closure will deal a severe blow to the economy of a county in which most employment depends on this plant, and which is particularly affected by an ageing populace and depopulation. Another issue worth noting is that VESTAS has benefited from significant public subsidies, at autonomous community, national and European levels. In this sense, the announcement of the closure of the Villadangos del Páramo plant and the relocation of production to non-EU countries constitutes a fraudulent use of the European Union funds from which the company has benefited.

Bearing these facts in mind, what measures does the Commission intend to adopt in response to this antisocial behaviour, which will negatively impact more than 2 000 families, to ensure that VESTAS exercises due corporate social responsibility?

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