

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0031/04

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Ilda Figueiredo and Sérgio Ribeiro, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Carlos Lage, Sérgio Sousa Pinto, António Campos, Paulo Casaca, Helena Torres Marques, Manuel dos Santos, Luís Queiró, José Ribeiro e Castro, Vasco Graça Moura, Regina Bastos, Carlos Coelho and Joaquim Piscarreta to the Commission

Subject: Announcement of the intention to close down Bombardier plants in Europe

The Canadian company Bombardier - the world's largest railway rolling stock manufacturer - has announced its intention to close down, wholly or partly, seven plants in Europe, some of which are renowned for high-quality production - affecting at least Portugal, the UK, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland.

If this intention becomes reality, it will directly imperil thousands of jobs, and thus have a profound socio-economic impact on the regions affected, and dramatic consequences for the workers and their families.

The situation is all the stranger, given that in these countries there are large-scale projects, some of them enjoying Community support, which, should they be carried through, would inevitably step up production in the sector concerned. Furthermore, in some of these countries - for example Portugal - if the closures go ahead, they will result in the shutting down of the only railway rolling stock production plant in the country.

Can the Commission therefore say what measures it intends to take to tackle this situation?

Tabled: 15.04.2004

Forwarded: 19.04.2004

Deadline for reply: 26.04.2004