Question for written answer E-015725/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: Redundancies at Cola Coca

The Greek Bottling Company (3E), a subsidiary of Coca Cola Hellenic Bottling Company (HBC), the largest bottler of Coca Cola in Europe with operations in 28 countries and a turnover of over EUR 7 billion, has closed eight of its factories in Greece sacking some 2 500 workers. Recently it closed its factory in Volos, laying off 200 workers on the pretext of restructuring production.

The company has relocated its production and accounting facilities to Bulgaria due to lower wages, its headquarters to Zurich, while complaints have been made – without any denials being issued – that, using a system of subsidiaries (KAR - TESS HOLDINGS), it pays taxes in the Netherlands and Luxembourg due to reduced taxation. At the same time, in Greece the population is being crushed by taxes imposed through the 'Memoranda' by successive Greek governments in conjunction with the Troika.

The company is prosecuting the redundant workers in the courts, seeking compensation worth millions of euros for the strike action taken by the workers; moreover, the workers' struggle is not reported in the media, since the company is a major customer, having spent millions of euros on advertising during the same period.

These are the results of the freedoms of the Treaty of Maastricht, the euro-unifying policy of reducing the cost of the workforce and giving tax breaks to capital at the expense of working people.

In view of the above, will the Commission say: what view does it take of the fact that the above concern is using the framework of EU Treaties and rules to make workers redundant and to take all the other measures referred to above?