

Question for written answer E-003763/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Anthony Smith (The Left)

Subject: Mass layoffs and conditionality of public aid

The clothing sector, much like the trade sector as a whole, is facing a mounting crisis. France, for example, has seen 37 000 jobs cut since 2012 – of which 4 000 were lost in 2023 alone – across a large number of small and large retailers.

While the loss of purchasing power caused by the French President's economic policy and affecting mainly household spending is one factor, the massive rise in online and second-hand shopping is another. However, a number of retailers who have laid off staff, such as Camaïeu, have received government support.

In light of this, does the Commission intend to:

1. Require Member States to ensure the transparency and traceability of state and EU aid?
2. Ensure that public aid is conditional on the company both not laying off employees and strictly complying with legislation on occupational health and safety standards?

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